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Life & Times, page 4



PLATFORM FASHION

Conference style
by Matthew Parris
Life & Times, page 5



Poll puts Major under more pressure on eve of conference as public swings against treaty

68% are ready to throw out Maastricht

By PETER RIDDELL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major's difficulties on the eve of the Conservative conference will be underlined today with the disclosure that more than two thirds of the British public oppose ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

A Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) poll for *The Times* suggests a big shift in public opinion since sterling was forced to leave the exchange-rate mechanism in mid-September.

As Mr Major prepares to make his decision to press on with the treaty bill a central theme of his speech at Brighton on Friday, the poll shows that 68 per cent would, when interviewed, have voted against ratification if a referendum was held. Some 32 per cent would have supported the

treaty, after the reallocation of a third of don't knows.

The figures represent a big change from the position only two weeks ago. When a question about Maastricht was asked in June and in mid-September, before the withdrawal from the ERM and the French referendum, just over a half were in favour of ratification. The interviews were between September 25 and 29, before Mr Major's pledge last Thursday that Parliament would ratify the Maastricht bill in the current session. Although polls have consistently shown that a majority wants a referendum on the treaty, this was rejected last week by the Labour party conference and is strongly opposed by Mr Major. The findings are certain to be called in support by the referendum supporters at Brighton this week.

Ministers were busy yesterday leading a rallying operation in support of Mr Major and the government. The conference takes place against the background of worsening economic news and the prime minister's personal popularity slumping to its lowest level.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, attacked Mr Major for refusing to sack Norman Lamont as Chancellor. He said that it increasingly damaged Britain's reputation and left the country without a credible economic policy.

"Of course Norman Lamont has to go. Everyone except the prime minister accepts that," he said. "But he refuses to sack him because Norman Lamont, from the very beginning of the sterling crisis, has served as his air-raid shelter. John Major is completely associated with every successive disaster brought upon us by his Chancellor."

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, accepted yesterday that the government was in a "difficult crisis" and spoke of the "disastrous setback" of being driven out of the ERM.

but said that the government would act "with clarity, consistency and conviction". He said: "I think our aims are clear and we have the chance next week to set them out again and get back on course."

Sir Norman Fowler, Tory chairman, contends that the conference will be seen as the turning point when the government started to fight back. In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Norman stresses the importance of the cabinet's decision to press ahead with the Maastricht bill because it has made the government's intentions clear.

He indicates that one theme of the conference will be Mr Major's leadership. "One of the things that people forget about John Major is that he takes a very strong position on issues. He thinks about them, decides and sticks with them, as he showed during the general election over separatism for Scotland and proportional representation."

Sir Norman claims that the cabinet was "totally united" during Thursday's discussion and denies that there are deep splits in the party. The Maastricht debate, he says, is "not something which is running through the wine and cheese parties; it is not running through the fund-raising meetings; it is not something which is preoccupying constituents up and down the country."

It is clear, however, that the Maastricht policy will come under strong attack this week from the leading Euro-sceptics such as Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, Lord Parkinson and Lord Tebbit. A speech to

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Fading stars smell blood at the seaside

AS JOHN Major strives this week to hold his party together, and Norman Lamont fights to save his career, they can expect precious little help from the Darby and Joan brigade at Brighton.

The stars of cabinets past are taking themselves off to the seaside. It may not quite be their last hurrah but, as they enter their twilight years and their powers fade, they are determined to enjoy themselves while they still can, and while their words still count for something. The old bruisers will be at it on the fringe, laying into the government's economic and European policies, and each other, with a gusto, as ministers try to placate the faithful inside the conference centre. During the past few days they have been limbering up, and the air has been thick with the sound of old scores being settled.

While the cabinet maintains its veneer of unity on Europe, it is almost as if the surrogate battle is being fought out in public by a collection of former

As the Conservatives gather in Brighton for their annual conference, the old bruisers are limbering up for a confrontation and the air is thick with the sound of old scores being settled. Philip Webster writes

heavyweights who were themselves once constrained by collective responsibility. The old stagers have all their faculties intact: only their memories appear suspect, if the comments of their colleagues are to be believed.

Lord Lawson of Blaby has been back in the fray in recent days as excerpts from his memoirs have hit the newsstands. In yesterday's extracts, Baroness Thatcher appeared to be the main target but there was no consolation for the prime minister. Lord Lawson blames the former prime minister for instigating the interest rate cuts that so damaged his own reputation as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He says that in 1983, the day after weeks' end reports of a split between them, she suggested a half-point cut in interest rates to

7.5 per cent. "To my eternal regret I accepted this poisoned chalice," he writes.

But there is no comfort for Mr Major. Lord Lawson writes of how he had doubts whether Mr Major, his number two as Treasury chief secretary, was up to the job. He says: "For a time after the 1987 election I was concerned that I might have made the wrong choice of chief secretary — a view I suspect was shared by Major himself. He found the job far more difficult than anything he had had to do before and had to work very hard to try to master it. He would come to see me, ashen-faced, to unburden himself of his worries."

For good measure Lord Lawson upsets another old adversary, Lord Tebbit. He claims that Lord Tebbit, now

one of the leading Euro-sceptics, supported entry into the exchange-rate mechanism. An incensed Lord Tebbit was moved to issue denials over the weekend. "Lawson's claim... is not correct," he said.

Lord Tebbit also found himself on the end of an outspoken attack from another former cabinet colleague yesterday. Lord Howe of Aberavon, backing Mr Major's decision to press ahead with the Maastricht legislation, effectively called Lord Tebbit a "political turncoat" and branded him and others as "gloating Euro-phobes".

Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, who left the cabinet because of

his attack on the Germans, came to their defence last week when they were being blamed for Britain's troubles by Mr Major and Mr Lamont. He also suggested, not altogether helpfully, that Mr Major was "on trial" next week.

The critics are certain to be joined by Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, when he makes an anti-Maastricht speech tomorrow. Lady Thatcher is not planning to speak. There is no need. Her very appearance on the platform on Thursday will be greeted wildly by the Euro-sceptics. This week in Brighton some old volcanoes will be out to prove that they are not yet dormant.

El Al jet crashes on block of flats

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN El Al cargo plane crashed into a high-rise apartment block on the outskirts of Amsterdam last night, starting fires in which dozens were feared killed, officials said.

Witnesses said the Boeing 747 exploded as it crashed into the Bijlmermeer residential area southeast of the Dutch capital. Police said initial signs suggested dozens of people may have been killed. A spokeswoman for the government aviation service said there was no evidence that the plane had exploded before it hit the buildings.

Earlier Schiphol air traffic control said it was suspected that a bomb had caused the explosion. There had been no reports of trouble on board the aircraft as it left Schiphol Airport. According to television reports, there were dozens of fatalities. There were no immediate official figures for those killed or wounded.

A KLM Royal Dutch Airlines official said: "They saw a large fireball. As it was dark and clear conditions, they could see it happen." Dutch radio reported chaotic scenes with ambulances rushing victims to hospitals.

The captain and three other crew died instantly. Police and emergency crew personnel were attending the scene.

'Sir Sony Walkman' given an honorary knighthood

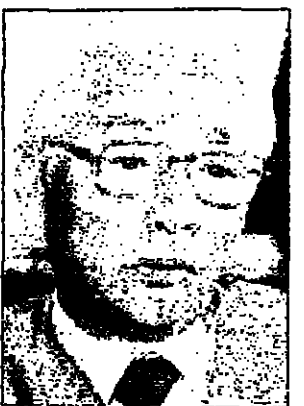
By JENNY KNIGHT

THE man who gave the world the Sony Walkman has been awarded an honorary knighthood by the Queen. Akio Morita, head of the giant Sony Corporation, was given the news at the British embassy in Tokyo by David Hunt, the Welsh Secretary, who is leading an investment mission to the Far East.

Mr Morita, 71, was one of three businessmen who founded Sony in 1946. He was the first son of the 15th generation of one of the biggest sake-producing families and broke with tradition by becoming an engineer instead of joining the family firm, making Morita sake.

Mr Morita was part of a team looking for innovations when the personal stereo was invented by Sony. Mr Morita recognised its potential and gave his backing. Now tens of millions of the stereos, which are made in 170 different models, have been sold. He says that the Walkman came about because he noticed his children could not live without music. They had stereos in their bedrooms and in their cars, but were unable to take music with them when they travelled on public transport or walked. The invention that followed this observation changed the listening habits of the world.

The award is in recognition



Morita: saw potential in personal stereos

of his contribution to British industry and exports, as well as to Anglo-Japanese relations, according to the Welsh Office.

Sony has two factories in Wales. A spokesman said: "I should think he is delighted with this honour. We are all very excited in Wales. It is his success in Wales which has contributed to this award. Mr Morita met the Prince of Wales who was visiting Japan in the early Seventies. Mr Morita said he was looking for a European base and the prince told him if he came to Wales he would open the factory for him. He did and we now employ 2,600 people and produce a million televisions a year."

During the first world war

Mr Morita met the brilliant electronics engineer Masaru Ibuka. After the war Mr Ibuka opened a laboratory and invited his friend to join him. That was the beginning of Sony Corporation. The company started by making short-wave radio adapters and went on to tape recorders, the transistor radio, home videos and the Walkman.

After pioneering work on video and compact disc technology, Mr Morita led Sony into the software business, purchasing the American company CBS Records in 1988 and Columbia Pictures a year later.

His father was determined to give him a business education and from an early age the boy's holidays were filled by attending board and business meetings. It was his mother who sparked his interest in electronics. She loved Western classical music which she played on an electric phonograph made in America.

He became curious to find out how electricity worked. Mr Morita said later that from that moment he forgot about studying at school and instead devoted himself to mastering simple electronic theory so he could build his own machine.

Mr Morita helped to set up the Japanese School in Cardiff for the children of Japanese couples and was involved with Japan Week held last year in Wales.

ON OTHER PAGES

Sarajevo mercy flight

Four American and Canadian relief planes landed at Sarajevo yesterday, as the airlift resumed of emergency food and medical supplies to the besieged Bosnian capital. The first plane to land at 7.30am was a Canadian transport bringing food and vital radar equipment to keep the airport functioning. Page 6

Comedian hurt

Leslie Crowther, the comedian and quiz show host, was critically ill yesterday in a Bristol hospital, after his Rolls-Royce crashed on the M5 on Saturday. Page 3

Golf triumph

The women golfers of Europe crushed the United States 115-65 to win the second Solheim Cup at in Scotland. Page 28

Law awards

Prizes totalling more than £6,000 are being offered in this year's Times Law Awards competition in association with the city law firm Freshfields. Students are invited to submit entries on "The Single Market - is it possible without a single legal system?" Full details in *Law Times* tomorrow.

Ministers dampen tax fears

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke and Michael Heseltine acted yesterday to quell rising fears that the government might be forced by the sterling crisis to bring forward an emergency programme of tax increases.

But amid renewed signs of Conservative divisions about the future direction of economic policy, they gave a warning that the most stringent yet controls on public spending will be needed as Britain faces life outside the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

The two cabinet heavyweights led a concerted effort to dampen suggestions that what would be seen as the biggest policy U-turn of all is under consideration in the wake of the ERM withdrawal. Mr Clarke delivered a side-swipe to the Euro-sceptics whom he said would raise taxes.

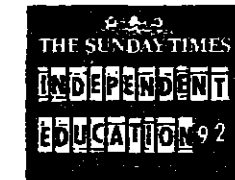
The message of the home secretary and the board of trade president on tax will be repeated firmly by Norman Lamont in his make-or-break Tory party conference speech on Thursday.

He will make plain that the tough spending targets set by

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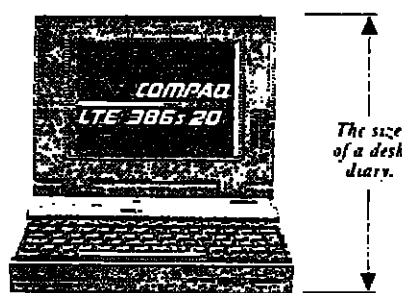
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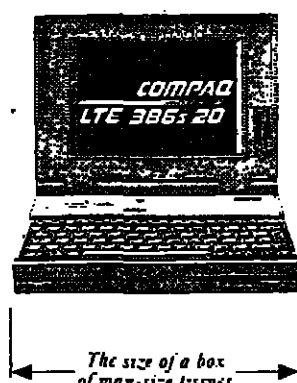


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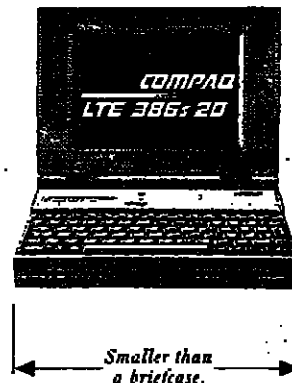


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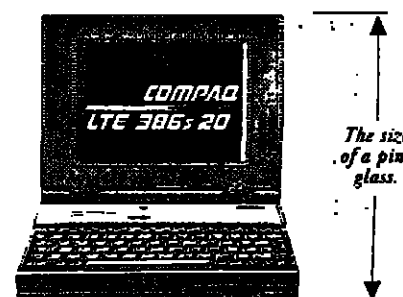


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July 20 1992



Crowther crash: the wrecked Rolls-Royce in which Leslie Crowther, the comedian and television quiz show host, crashed on the M5. It took rescue crews 19 minutes to free him from the car. Mr Crowther, left, was yesterday critically ill in hospital after Saturday's crash. (In

Jenkins writes). He underwent a two-hour operation to remove a blood clot from the brain at Frenchay hospital, Bristol, where he was transferred from Cheltenham hospital when his condition deteriorated and he lost consciousness on Saturday night. Lyn Hill-

Tout, general manager at Frenchay, which specialises in neurological cases, said: "He has stabilised after the operation and has shown some slight signs of improvement, but his condition remains critical." Mr Crowther, 59, was driving his ten-year-old Silver Shadow when it

swerved off the road and up an embankment and turned onto its roof at 2.58pm, as he returned from opening a carpet showroom in Brierley Hill, West Midlands. He was on his way home to Corston, near Bath, from where he was to go on to an evening charity event at

the Horseshoe Inn at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Members of his family had been at his bedside throughout Saturday night. Police said there was no suggestion of alcohol being a factor in the accident but they had not ruled out the possibility of a heart attack.

Christmas shoppers face the bill for sterling's collapse

By LOUISE HIDALGO AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

HIGH street shops, anxious to compensate for higher import costs caused by the collapse of sterling, are likely to increase prices around Christmas, when "consumers are less price-sensitive".

Safeway has taken the unusual step of appointing a working party dedicated to deciding exactly what the effect of sterling's devaluation on the company's pricing structure will be. It is due to report this week.

Retailers are anxious not to burden an already reluctant consumer by raising prices. In the short term, most will prefer to absorb the costs of more expensive imports rather than pass them on.

But John Hardman, chairman of Asda, believes it will not be long before the effect of sterling's fall seeps through. "Retailers are already over-stocked. They will not wish to deter buyers by raising prices," he said. "But I think we could see the effect coming through

around Christmas when consumers are less price-sensitive. It is the food and wine sector that is likely to feel the weight of more costly imports first. Sainsbury's, Britain's biggest grocery chain, says that the first price rises could be phased in over the next few weeks, although a spokeswoman added: "The situation is still so fluid. The franc could drop against the pound next week, and the differential on imported wines, for example, would be wiped out."

In the fashion sector, where stock is purchased seasons in advance, the effect of devaluation on imports is unlikely to be felt until the new year at the earliest.

Richard Dixon, spokesman for Storehouse, said: "We will be bargaining hard with suppliers. They too are anxious for business. Then the question is: how much do you absorb yourself and how much do you pass on to the customer? The answer is a difficult market, we believe, to hold your prices."

In the holiday trade, those agents who make their own arrangements to travel to the Alps and America this winter face big increases in their costs because of the falling value of the pound. They could be paying up to 20 per cent more than they may have bargained for only a few weeks ago as accommodation, ski passes and even petrol now has to be bought at the new rates.

On the other hand, twice as many skiers who book package holidays through tour operators have their prices guaranteed throughout the winter at least.

Nearly all the large tour operators bought dollars, Australian dollars, French francs and other currencies in July when the pound was at its highest, so enabling them to set their brochure prices and give "no surcharge" guarantees.

A handful of, mainly small, specialist travel firms who do not have the financial muscle to negotiate large amounts of currency are now having to

impose surcharges to protect their profits. If they are members of the Association of British Travel Agents they must provide full details of how they justify the increases, agree to absorb the first 2 per cent and must not impose the increases for at least 30 days before departure. So far, 12 of the 650 licensed tour operators have been given approval to make the surcharges.

Even so they are reluctant to go ahead because the industry has already been squeezed by the over-capacity in the market and a fierce "price war" that broke out among the big companies earlier in the year.

Many small firms have seen their profits cut to the bone by the discounting, and are now facing a dilemma over whether to increase prices and run the risk of pricing themselves out of the market, or bearing the sudden rise in the price they must pay for the accommodation they book on behalf of clients. On a ski holiday costing £400, charges are expected to be limited to around £10.

Airlines have generally not been affected by the fall in the value of the pound. A spokesman for British Airways said that as they received as much revenue in the currency of the countries they served, the overall effect should be "broadly neutral. We expect to see an increase in the number of passengers coming to Britain from America and parts of mainland Europe to take advantage of the falling pound," he said.

Meanwhile, the winners from sterling's misfortunes are still calculating the effects of its fall. For Jaguar, for every cent the pound falls against the dollar, profitability is estimated to improve by £1.5 million. Against European currencies, the formula is more complex. Foreign importers are also in a dilemma. Because of the sterling free-fall, the prices of BMW cars in Britain could increase by as much as 14 per cent, although it is likely the company will absorb most of the costs.



Cook: 'Ministers must get a grip'

Whitehall fuel bill rises 18%

NEARLY all government departments spent more on fuel in the last financial year — when they were supposed to be cutting back.

The Whitehall fuel bill was £341 million last year, an increase of £52.7 million, or 18 per cent, on the previous year, according to the pressure group the Association for the Conservation of Energy, which analysed the government's own figures.

The disclosure is likely to embarrass the government, which is shortly to launch a multi-million pound television campaign to encourage the public to save energy. Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry secretary, said the figures were evidence that the government was not practising what it preached.

Labour will raise the issue in the Commons when Parliament returns later this month. Mr Cook said: "There is no room for hypocrisy over energy. Ministers must begin by getting a firm grip on energy use in their own buildings if they are to be credible when they lecture the rest of us."

Andrew Warren, the association director, said the increased fuel bills, as much as 68 per cent higher at Customs and Excise, went against the government's commitment to cut energy use by 15 per cent in five years and was "very poor housekeeping". He said overall spending on energy efficiency fell by 35 per cent.

The Treasury, for example, spent nothing on energy efficiency measures in 1991-2, whereas they spent £13,600 the previous year. This is an abysmal example from the one department above all which should understand about investing for the future."

Man in the News

ITV pins hopes on Plantin principle

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the late Frankie Howard was asked for his reaction to Marcus Plantin's promotion to LWT's director of programmes in 1990, he said: "When I first met him, he was just plain Mark Plantin, but he has had to grow into a new job."

Now one of British broadcasting's biggest impresarios as ITV's newly appointed network director, Mr Plantin has come a long way since he wrapped presents backstage for Bruce Forsyth's *The Generation Game* as a BBC trainee in the early seventies.

Charged with the day-to-day commissioning and scheduling of ITV's £500 million network programming budget, Mr Plantin, 46, will have more power over what 20 million viewers see each night on ITV than any of the 15 regional companies.

Together with Andrew Quinn, ITV's chief executive, he will preside over an aggressively commercial strategy, aimed at winning younger, affluent viewers and more advertising revenue in the newly competitive broadcast market. Mr Plantin, described by colleagues as a single-minded and no-nonsense professional with a somewhat impish and mischievous air, boasts a distinguished record in developing hit light entertainment programmes and fostering new talent.

He started in the theatre before joining the BBC in 1970, where he climbed quickly up the ladder to direct and produce such programmes as *The Two Ronnies*, *Wogan* and *The Generation Game*. Recruited to LWT in 1975 by John Birt, then LWT's director of programmes and now the BBC's deputy director-general, Mr Plantin was told to develop "a Saturday night ratings winner for ITV". The result was *Blind Date*.

Promoted to controller of entertainment in 1987, Mr Plantin steered LWT away from tired variety and games show formats to sitcoms and other comedy shows, such as *Friday Night Live*. He also locked in such high-profile

performers as Cilla Black, Hale & Pace, Michael Barrymore and Michael Aspel. Promoted to director of programmes in 1990, he has had less than two years of experience scheduling programmes.

Yesterday, however, other executives described him as an instinctive scheduler who has a gut feeling for what is popular. Mr Plantin, who has a reputation for shyness and modesty, himself admitted: "By the seat of my pants on scheduling, it's a gut thing backed by research. You need to be a bit of a gambler."

David Elstein, director of programmes at Thames and one of the contenders for Mr Plantin's new job, said: "Marcus is clear-minded, rational, efficient and does not carry a lot of baggage in terms of commitments to old formulas and line-ups. He is still relatively fresh to the scheduling war and his ideas will not be stale."

Paul Jackson, director of programmes at Carlton and a close friend who worked with Mr Plantin at the BBC on *The Two Ronnies*, described him as "a consummate diplomat". He said: "He's quiet and unassuming but not cold or calculating. He genuinely loves the business and the talent. He has a real competitive instinct. Another programme executive who has worked with Mr Plantin said he was tough enough to be his own man. "He is not someone they [the ITV companies] can push around," he said.

Mr Plantin's lack of experience in the production of drama, news and current affairs and other programme genres is not seen as a handicap. "He gets better as the demands get greater with each job — the 'Plantin principle'," Mr Jackson said.

Mr Plantin lives in East Sheen, London with his wife Kate and two sons aged 11 and 8. He is a cultured man whose little leisure time is spent at the theatre, opera or in conversation with friends over a glass of wine.

Mr Plantin plans to strengthen ITV's schedule with better comedy output and more blockbuster movies.

French 'hold talks' over BR routes

The transport department said yesterday that "various organisations" have expressed interest in running services on the BR network after privatisation, although it could not confirm that SNCF, the French state-owned operator, had held secret talks with the government.

The French are likely to opt for services on either the West Coast line from London to Glasgow or the East Coast route from London to Edinburgh, according to a report in *The Independent on Sunday*. It quoted an anonymous BR executive as saying the East Coast line, which has been electrified by BR at a cost of £700 million, would be the favourite.

The line, which is thought to be one of InterCity's most profitable, could even take modified versions of SNCF's 200mph TGV trains, the report claimed. The RMT transport union described the possibility that the state-owned French operator may take over BR lines after privatisation as "Alice in Wonderland stuff. It seems bizarre to talk about privatising our railways only to let a state-owned railway from elsewhere take over," a spokesman said.

If SNCF does bid for the East Coast line, it is likely to face stiff competition from Richard Branson's Virgin Group, which has shown a strong interest in running trains on the modernised line.

Woman bowled out

A cricket team's secretary has been told she cannot be present when it receives the trophy for winning the Rutland and district league because the prizegiving dinner is for men only. Other members of the club at Market Overton, Leicestershire, oppose the ban on Kate Don, 38. She said: "I feel very saddened by the whole affair. I have never come across this sort of thing in my life." The chairman of the league, John Mason, said: "We have booked a speaker who knows the dinner is for men only. With the speaker we had last year I would not have wished any woman to have been present. If I made an exception for her, how could I refuse the other ladies?"

Scent war stepped up

Europe's leading fragrance houses are using pressure to keep the price of perfumes artificially high, an executive of the Superdrug chemists' chain said yesterday. Superdrug sells perfume and aftershave, including Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent, up to one-third below the normal retail price at 15 of its 670 stores and intends to extend the practice. But the fragrance houses, which argue that cut-price perfume shatters the illusion surrounding the product, are refusing to supply Superdrug direct. Geoff Brady, a Superdrug director, said the houses were behind a refusal by glossy magazines to carry a £250,000 advertising campaign for the discounted perfumes.

Cruise fire 'not arson'

P&O has announced that two fires aboard *Sky Princess*, cruising in the Pacific off the coast of Mexico and carrying two Scotland Yard detectives investigating possible arson, are now thought to have been started accidentally. Det Chief Supt Douglas Campbell, from the Yard's serious and international crime branch, and Detective Sergeant Cliff Smith, a member of the fire investigation unit, were sent after P&O concern over two fires in the past week aboard the 46,000-ton ship, making its way south carrying 1,200 passengers, at £1,500 each, and 500 crew, comprising British officers and cabin staff, Pakistani deck crew and Italian restaurant staff.

The cost of jam today

Traffic jams are costing industry up to £10 billion a year, it was claimed yesterday. A survey by a firm of consultants, Pera International, says that 80 per cent of manufacturers believe Britain's "poor" transport network hinders their competitiveness abroad. Many firms demanded immediate improvements in road and rail links to enable them to compete effectively in Europe. Seventy-one per cent said insufficient motorway capacity was the main obstacle and the biggest delays were said to be in the South East, including the M25, and London. Pera's chief executive, Ron Armstrong, said public expenditure cuts were expected shortly, but increased investment was vital.

Hitler relics for sale

Love tokens given by Hitler to his mistress Eva Braun will be auctioned this week. A tiny gold swastika charm bearing the initials EB and a Hitler painting of a Munich street scene were given to a Chester dealer in the sixties in lieu of a debt on a three-piece suite. A letter from the dealer, Peter Henshaw, who died several years ago, explains that just after the war a housekeeper to Braun's sister, Margarete Fegelein, swapped them for soap and cigarettes with a REME officer. The swastika, valued at £500-£800, and a watercolour dated 1912, valued at £1,200-£1,800, which have both been authenticated, will be sold tomorrow at Bichall's Country Auction Rooms in Cotebrook, Cheshire.

Witnesses scared off

Two out of five prosecution witnesses in Scottish assault cases have been threatened and many more are frightened of using the same waiting rooms as defence witnesses, a survey published yesterday shows. A third of all crown witnesses said that they would be reluctant to come forward again. One told Edinburgh University researchers: "When I returned home that day I advised all my family that, no matter what they see, they should turn a blind eye to it. I certainly wouldn't like any of my family to undergo what I experienced that day." Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate, said yesterday that the reluctance of witnesses was a matter of concern.

Gunpoint speed fine quashed

By JENNY KNIGHT

AN ENGLISH motorist who was forced to pay a £100 spot fine at gunpoint by French traffic police has won a two-year fight to prove his innocence.

Richard Knaggs, 40, a solicitor from Redcar, Cleveland, was driving from Dieppe to Marbella, Spain, in August 1990 when he was flagged down on the N27 near Rouen and directed into a field.

He said yesterday: "It was like a Tesco's car-park on a Saturday because every vehicle there had British plates. There were computers and facilities to take American Express, Visa and travellers' cheques, and lots of English-speaking police."

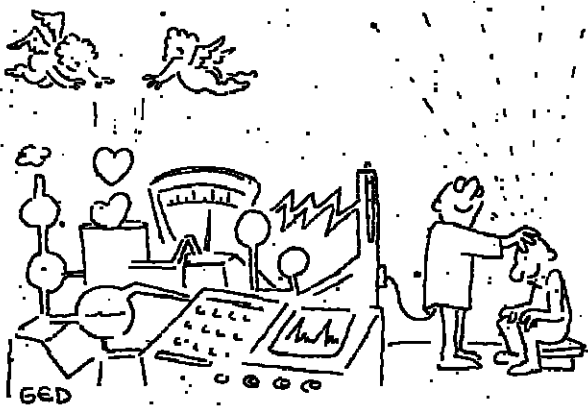
"Up the road, farmers were burning lorry-loads of English lamb, and this was a set-up to take money off us — mostly young families heading off on holiday." When he protested his innocence an officer pointed a gun at him and said he would be jailed if he did not pay.

Now the police have been ordered to return the money by a court that quashed his conviction. Officers admitted they could not produce any radar trap proof for his allegation that his Mercedes 500SEL was travelling at 93mph.

Mr Knaggs said his letters to the French police went unanswered for more than a year, until he approached the British embassy in Paris. Diplomats put him in touch with a lawyer, who won his appeal at a court in Argentina.

Healers put their faith in the high-tech touch

Electrodes and lasers have replaced the laying-on of hands, writes Jerome Burne



FAITH healing was once just a matter of the laying-on of hands. But no more: it is now called energy medicine and is becoming as high-tech as the chemical medicine it seeks to replace.

Valerie Hunt, a physiologist at University College of Los Angeles, told an international conference in London at the weekend how radio electrodes, as used by astronauts, enabled her to record the body's energy field. She then screened what was claimed to be the first video film of the aura surrounding the human body.

Ms Hunt, a grey-haired woman with a taste in tips that must have put neighbouring auras in the shade, gave dramatic accounts of the healing powers of "emergency energy medicine" and provided tips on aura reading. "Intellectuals," she said, had a lot of yellow — but do not be impressed by anyone who tells you that your aura is blue: it is frightfully commonplace.

Remarkable cures were claimed for a new healing

system that seemed seemed to combine homeopathy, acupuncture, lasers and molecular physics. The brainchild of Werner Kropp, from Switzerland, it was said to use magnetic energy to put "organisational information" into water, which could then be picked up by beaming a low-powered laser through it which, in turn, was used to stimulate acupuncture points.

It was claimed that the technique gave the sick body the information it needed to harmonise itself. Flu symptoms vanished within 48 hours, incurable hepatitis cleared up in weeks and there were hundreds of former asthma sufferers in Switzerland

who no longer needed their inhalers.

Dr Daniel Benore, the conference organiser, said that if healing were a drug its success in trials would mean that it would long since have been on sale. He has a four-volume study of more than 130 clinical trials, showing that healers can produce a beneficial effect, but he is having difficulty getting the book published.

Certainly, the idea that the body has an electro-magnetic

component of which medicine takes little notice seems plausible, but the energy that everyone was talking about did not always seem the stuff with which scientists are comfortable.

One unfortunate woman with an annoying cough was asked how she could possibly still have it with so much healing energy around. "It's something metaphysical," she explained. A member of the audience who asked: "What is

this energy?" was told: "In a word, it is love" by a healer and devotee of astrological medicine from Bulgaria.

The most contented people were those for whom healing was indeed a matter of faith: they did it themselves, they knew people who did it, it worked, and if science and medicine did not accept it, so much the worse for them.

The troubled figures were the ones with a foot in both camps, such as Dr Bernard Grad, a biologist from McGill University in Montreal, who told of the ridicule he suffered and the impossibility of obtaining funds to repeat studies of healing.

"Dr Rindy Bakker, a GP from Sevenoaks, is one of a dozen British doctors who practise healing or work with healers. 'I worked for some time in Africa and there our patients often consulted a witch-doctor, so I have no problem with the idea that it is not only doctors who can heal. I just have my own witch-doctor here in England.'"

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Coffee 'no risk to healthy hearts'

Fresh evidence clears caffeine of charges

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF the world's most widely used stimulants may be safe after all. There is no evidence that drinking full-bodied, caffeine-laden cups of coffee causes heart attacks in healthy people, according to a new study.

Researchers at Toronto University used sophisticated statistical techniques to combine the findings of 20 important studies of the alleged link between coffee and heart disease.

The analysis, published in the US journal *Archives of Internal Medicine*, is the second to dismiss the scare that began in 1986 after American researchers found that US graduates who drank more than five cups of coffee a day ran more than twice the risk of a heart attack. That study was based on only 1,100 men and subsequent researchers found it difficult to replicate.

An analysis of 21 studies in six countries involving 103,000 people, published in the *New England Journal of*

Medicine last year, also failed to show any evidence of a link. "The two studies together are very convincing," Dr Ian Baird, of the British Heart Foundation, said. "We think coffee is a safe substance to drink." Five to six cups of coffee a day would be unlikely to cause harm, he said.

The coffee scare led drinkers to cut down on their habit and there was a boom in decaffeinated varieties. Caffeine, the world's most widely used stimulant drug — also present in tea, chocolate, soft drinks and medicines — was the suspected cause as it was known to cause irregularities of the heart beat. Drinking "de-caf" became almost mandatory for health-conscious Americans and coffee companies invested millions devising new techniques for stripping out the caffeine while retaining the flavour.

But just as coffee drinkers had got used to the decaffeinated variety, a further American study of 45,000 men

published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1990 found a 60 per cent increased risk of a heart attack among drinkers of decaffeinated coffee, but no increase among those who stuck to the regular variety.

Critics of the study say that coffee drinkers who knew themselves to be at higher risk of a heart attack might have been more likely to switch to decaffeinated coffee, distorting the results. But the researchers attributed the effect to the Robusta bean which is used to make about 80 per cent of decaffeinated coffee, suggesting it may contain chemicals that increase the risk of coronary disease.

A study in Scandinavia lent some credence to this theory by showing a link between strong black boiled coffee and heart disease. Boiling coffee releases substances from the bean that raise blood cholesterol but Dr Baird said coffee in Britain was prepared differently.

Art dealer to give faker his own show

By Sarah Jane Checkland, saleroom correspondent

ERIC Hebborn, the self-confessed faker who duped such eminent institutions as the British Museum and the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, is to be feted by a London dealer in an exhibition starting on Thursday.

The exhibition is the initiative of Julian Hartnoll, a West End dealer who started his career selling Old Master drawings in the sixties. Having read *Drawn to Trouble*, the memoirs Mr Hebborn published last year, he approached the artist because he was "curious to know whether I, too, had handled any of his work".

Relieved to discover he was in the clear and impressed by the quality of Mr Hebborn's draughtsmanship, Mr Hartnoll decided to show the work of other dealers by mounting a show of "the real Hebborn" to coincide with the publication of the softback version of the memoirs, now called *Master Faker*. Mr Hebborn,



Spot the difference: a genuine Corot drawing of a boy, left, and the fake, right, by Eric Hebborn; below

a genial and articulate cockney who now lives in Italy, is in London preparing for the exhibition, which will include portrait drawings of the artist and his former friend, the late Anthony Blunt, as well as sketches from antique sculptures and landscapes.

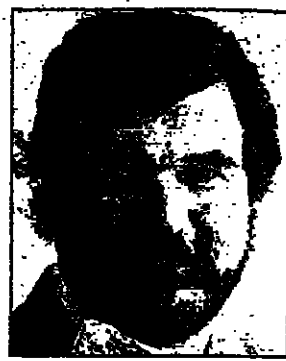
For buyers perceiving interested in buying "genuine" Hebborn fakes, there will be a small selection including a drawing after Corot of a small boy. Prices will range from £500 to £2,000. The "Corot" will cost £1,200.

Whereas Tom Keating, that other famous faker, claimed that he always left hallmarks in his works, such as giving subjects three hands, Mr Hebborn went to lengths to make his works indistinguishable from period originals.

He did that by using original paper, and even pressing fake collectors' marks (stamps denoting

ownership by a particular collection) on some drawings. Mr Hebborn relates in his book how he then took them for sale at galleries such as Colnaghi, and auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's, keeping a man when the experts concluded that the works were genuine.

Mr Hebborn argues that all he did was to produce drawings. It was the experts who staked great claims for them, not him.



Tonight RSPCA officers will be fighting for their lives.



The pictures you see above represent some of the horrific realities of animal abuse handled by the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit (SOU).

Tonight, Channel 4 screens the first of a 3 part documentary series based on the undercover work of these dedicated officers.

Cock fighting is the subject of the first film.

In this alleged sport metal spurs are strapped to the bird's legs to increase maiming power.

Punctured lungs, gouged out eyes and pierced flesh are common injuries.

Fighting dogs form the basis of the second programme.

The dogs, usually American pit bulls weighing up to 90lbs, are trained to be killing machines.

They fight to exhaustion, many suffer horrific injuries, many die from shock.

The last programme in the series features a nightmare journey endured by live animals across Europe.

Animals are crammed into lorries. In some cases they are starved of food and water for over 50 hours. They arrive battered, bruised and exhausted.

All these investigations can take months of surveillance.

Infiltrating the seedy world of organised cruelty often means the RSPCA officers themselves become victims of abuse.

All the undercover inspectors have been threatened, some even with their lives.

These risks, however, do pay off. Since the unit was established, the RSPCA have successfully prosecuted hundreds of people.

The fight goes on. Join it tonight on 'Animal Squad Undercover', 9.00pm Channel 4.

For more information about the SOU and the other work of the RSPCA call 0839 662266. Calls are charged at 36p per minute cheap rate, 48p per minute at all other times.



Passive smokers gain legal backing

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE publication today of a legal opinion on employees' rights relating to passive smoking will probably encourage workers to sue employers for health damage and increase the pressure on smokers to kick the habit.

In a document published by Ash, the anti-smoking group, and backed by the Health Education Authority, Patrick Elias, QC, states that under the common law duty of care, an employer must protect his employees' health at work. Enough is known about the dangers of passive smoking to accept that this duty is broken by an employer if he allows workers to be exposed to tobacco smoke, Mr Elias, a barrister specialising in public law, suggests.

Any employee who "can establish the causal connection between his injury and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke" stands a good chance of successfully suing his employer. The opinion is likely to provoke the first UK test case on passive smoking.

Environmental health officers and health and safety inspectors could also prosecute employers under criminal law. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, charges should be brought by enforcement agencies if the employer fails to provide smoke-free air at work, Mr Elias states.

Mark Flannagan, assistant director of Ash, believes that the counsel's opinion will frighten employers into imposing smoking bans. "All the right circumstances have to fall together before we get a test case, but in the meantime this will encourage employers to comply with best practice."

The Health and Safety Executive in January stated that employers must provide special rest rooms for non-smokers from the end of next year.

Care costs 'forcing elderly to sell homes'

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SONS and daughters hoping to inherit the family home may instead face high bills for the care of their elderly parents. A report published today says that many elderly people have to sell their homes to pay for private residential care.

As house prices fall and care costs rise, the sale of a house now buys only a few years of care. The average house, selling for about £66,000, would pay for only five years in a nursing home charging at the income support limit of £255 a week, or eight years in a residential home charging at the limit of £160 a week, according to the report by the Family Policy Studies Centre.

Most private homes charge above these rates, especially in the South East. Once the money runs out, the costs fall on the family and social security. The report says that families could face bills of £30-40 a week to top up social security payments.

Francis McKelvey, author of the report, said that the prospect of the expected legacy of the parental home being wiped out was "a potentially serious source of conflict" within families. "Elderly people are placed in an impossible situation. They may need the care but they are reluctant to deprive their children of an inheritance for which they have worked all their lives," he said.

The social security department takes the value of a house into account with other assets when assessing whether elderly residents of private care homes should pay their own way. Local authorities will do the same when they take over responsibility under the community care changes next April.

Fischer retains lead after sixth draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

The fourteenth game of the chess championship between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in the former Yugoslavia ended in an agreed draw on Saturday night after 32 moves.

The score is now five wins to Fischer and three to Spassky, with six draws.

The winner of this world record \$5 million (£2.9 million) chess match will be the first player to take ten games. Fischer seems to be playing with greater circumspection after the budding he received in the first two games of the Belgrade section of the match, from which

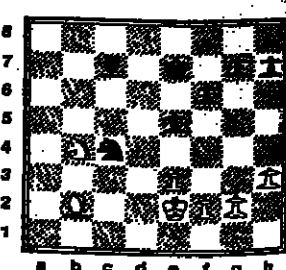
Spassky gained a win and a draw.

In game 14, Fischer reversed to accepting the Queen's Gambit, a line that he had previously tried in games four and six. After 15 moves, the positions appeared to be level and Fischer offered his opponent the opportunity of a draw.

Spassky refused, but by move 32 the situation on the board had levelled out so much that a draw was then inevitable.

Here are the moves of the fourteenth game. Spassky is playing with the white pieces:

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	d5	16 h3	h3
2 c4	c5	17 Rf2	Rf7
3 Nf3	Nf6	18 Rd1	Rd8
4 e3	e6	19 Bf1	Bd7
5 Bxc4	c6	20 Nd2	Ne5
6 d5	c5	21 Rf2	Rf7
7 dxc6	Qxd1	22 Nd2	Ne5
8 Rd1	Rd8	23 Nd2	Ne5
9 Be2	Bd7	24 Nd2	Ne5
10 Be2	Bd7	25 Nd2	Ne5
11 Be2	Bd7	26 Nd2	Ne5
12 Nd2	d4	27 Nd2	Ne5
13 Rd1	Rd8	28 Nd2	Ne5
14 f3	f5	29 Nd2	Ne5
15 Kf1	Kf7	30 Nd2	Ne5
16 Nd1	Bd6	31 Nd2	Ne5
17 e4	Bd6		



The final position

80,000 defendants a year could lose right to trial by jury

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

ABOLITION of a defendant's basic right to elect trial by jury is being considered as a possible way to cut the growing number of cases that go to the crown court each year.

The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is seeking responses on whether the right to choose the venue for the trial, which exists for offences such as theft, some burglaries, and assault causing actual bodily harm, should be transferred to the prosecution as in Scotland, with a possible right of appeal against the decision.

Some 80 per cent of 100,000-plus cases committed each year to the crown court for trial are triable either summarily or by jury. Defendants have an unfettered right to elect trial by jury; other cases are committed to the crown court on the discretion of magistrates.

The commission is also working out details of a new

tough disciplinary regime in which police officers could lose their present protection against disciplinary proceedings if acquitted at a criminal trial or if damages are awarded against a police authority.

The proposals are part of a package of reforms now being hammered out as the commission moves into the second stage of its investigations and hears oral evidence.

The commission also looks increasingly likely to allow unsupported confession evidence to be admissible, subject to a mandatory warning by the judge on the dangers of convicting on such evidence alone.

It may recommend disclosure of the defence case before trial, which many see as an abrogation of the "right to silence"; a new investigative body for alleged miscarriages of justice, possibly reporting to the Court of Appeal; a widening

of the grounds for appeal and a change in criteria so that the Court of Appeal orders a retrial if there is fresh evidence rather than considering the fresh evidence itself.

The commission's latest thinking is revealed in questions to be put to Liberty, formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties, which has been called to give oral evidence.

John Wadham, legal officer, said that Liberty welcomed the trend in the commission's thinking, which seemed to indicate a "radical overhaul of the criminal justice system". He particularly welcomed the apparent recognition of the problems of police malpractice and the current police complaints system.

Civil libertarians and others would, however, be "disgusted" by the removal of the right to silence at the pre-trial stage, although he hoped that the absence of questions on right to remain silent under police questioning meant that this was "safe".

Liberty would also be against any move to give the decision on mode of trial to the prosecution, who would invariably seek to bring the case before magistrates, where they could be more confident of a conviction. Another concern was that the commission might not outlaw uncorroborated confession evidence altogether.

On the proposed reform of police discipline, the commission suggests this could mean that for minor breaches of the disciplinary code, officers face a new tougher standard of proof akin to that in civil proceedings, which is "on the balance of probabilities". At present, the standard of proof applied is "beyond reasonable doubt". A third reform being floated is that minor infringements of the disciplinary code be dealt with by formal warnings at operational supervisory level, leading to more serious sanctions.



Over and out: former Battle of Britain pilot who flew missions from Biggin Hill stood to attention yesterday as the Spitfire's 75 years as a military air base. The station commander's pennant and the RAF ensign were lowered and after a service of remembrance at the base's St George's Chapel two privately owned Spitfires flew past. Opponents of the closure recalled Winston Churchill's words when he visited the base at the height of the battle: "This station must never, never close." Above: a former wartime flyer bears a standard at yesterday's ceremony. left, a flight sergeant climbs into his Spitfire at the Kent base in 1941.

Opponents of women priests step up fight

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

LEADING opponents of the ordination of women priests will meet this week to discuss tactics as the decisive November vote by the Church of England's general synod draws near.

The meeting comes a few days before the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev David Hope, the third most senior in the hierarchy, tells London worshippers that the church is approaching a critical period.

In a letter to more than 400 parishes, Dr Hope is expected to say that he and the four area bishops will be on hand to counsel and advise, whichever way the vote goes. Other dioceses, which expect a hurt response from dozens of men and women whatever the outcome, have announced similar plans.

In spite of a plea by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for both sides to behave with charity, the temperature of the debate was raised yesterday as senior bishops were reported to be critical of Professor David McClean, chairman of the house of laity.

Opponents told BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme that Professor McClean, chairman of the group that drafted the legislation, had abused his position by sending a letter to synod members explaining how the proposed new law would work. Professor McClean admitted that postage was funded by the Movement for the Ordination of Women.

Senior members of the synod's Catholic group, meeting on Thursday, will hear evidence that the vote could fall in two or possibly all three houses of the general synod. The Rev Peter Geldard, chairman of the Catholic group, says the vote could be sent down by the clergy and even the bishops.

A London parish church will tonight begin a £2,000 radio advertising campaign to attract youngsters. St Martin-in-the-Fields, which has taken 28 slots on LBC, expects criticism from traditionalists.

Gang steals £25,000 parrots

Parrots worth £25,000 were stolen yesterday in what is believed to be Britain's biggest bird theft from Paradise Park, Hayle, Cornwall.

Mike Reynolds, the park's owner, offered a £5,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the thieves and the return of the birds. The raiders evaded alarm systems and cut through wire fences to steal 21 birds, including a pair of scarlet macaws, two pairs of double yellow headed Amazon parrots and a pair of roseate cockatoos.

Police believe the thieves knew what they were looking for and had an expert knowledge of birds. But the raiders may be unable to sell the birds on the black market as they are fitted with electronic implants containing details that can be matched against a national stolen bird register.

Bomb charge

Michael Bradbury, 50, of Poole, Dorset, will appear before Bournemouth magistrates today in connection with an alleged firebomb plot against Sainsbury supermarkets. He is accused of blackmail and threatening to commit damage.

Tourists die

Two British holidaymakers died when their car crashed near Malaga, southern Spain. Ian Morgan, 20, and his friend Neil Bennett, 22, came from Cardiff.

Beet the record

A 37½lb beetroot shown by Ian Neale, a nurseryman from Newport, Gwent, at the giant vegetable championships at Spalding, Lincolnshire, was claimed as a world record.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bonds prize draw are: £100,000, number 28PL 880859, who lives in Avon (value of holding, £1,510); £50,000, 7EB 922283, Oxford (£120); £25,000, 12FL 848552, Chwyd (£1,503).

Women share chore of balancing books

MOST women are financially astute, rarely overdrawn and share all main cash decisions with their partners, according to a survey published today.

However, many are unhappy with the quality of bank services, complaining of sexism. Good Housekeeping, which conducted the survey in association with Acuma, a division of American Express, found 69 per cent of 1,000 respondents felt competent at managing their finances. Only 6 per cent ignored their financial situation "until it becomes a crisis" and 2 per cent found money matters "dull and boring".

Half of those questioned said women were better at managing money than men, with 43 per cent disagreeing. Eighty-nine per cent of mar-

ried women shared important financial decisions with their husbands. Some 61 per cent were never overdrawn, a further 19 per cent went into the red twice a year or less, 5 per cent had an overdraft "nearly every month" and 4 per cent "all the time".

An overwhelming 98 per cent had at least a rough idea of their financial status at all times, with 61 per cent keeping an accurate record of all incomes and outgoings.

Thirty-seven per cent felt they were treated differently by banks because of their sex, with half of those saying they were expected to take advice without question. The results were drawn from analysis of 1,000 responses to a questionnaire in the magazine that 6,000 answered.



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Fear of history repeating itself marks German anniversary



Schoenhuber: hailed support for the right

THERE has been little joy in the second anniversary of German reunification, least of all for an increasingly embittered Helmut Kohl. During his attempted walkabout at the anniversary celebrations in Schwerin this weekend, jeers and shouts of "piss off" drowned the intermittent applause. Eggs were thrown at the Chancellor, and one man punched him.

Schwerin is the capital of Mecklenburg, the poorest state in Germany. Local people said that the Chancellor had deceived them with his promises two years ago that living standards in eastern Germany would rapidly move up to those of western Germany. Mecklenburg's financial difficulties meant that the celebrations were drastically downgraded.

Helmut Kohl found little to celebrate as he oversaw the second anniversary of German unification, writes Anatol Lieven from Schwerin in eastern Germany

At the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp, near Berlin, where a Jewish memorial was destroyed last week, seven thousand people turned out yesterday at a rally of political, church and Jewish leaders and even pop stars to condemn racism and alert Germans to the neo-Nazi menace. Robert Gummert, deputy chairman of Germany's Jewish community, said Bonn's politicians were bickering among themselves rather than working out how to deal with the neo-Nazi threat. "They should bring some

order to their own house," he told the crowd in a field outside the Sachsenhausen camp.

In Frankfurt, Amos Oz, the Israeli author, condemned German anti-Semitism after receiving the peace prize at the Frankfurt book fair. "It is not the past that burns in Sachsenhausen," he declared. "No, it is the German present and German future that are in danger of catching fire."

Franz Schoenhuber, a former member of the Waffen SS who now leads the far-right Republican party, declared at a rally in Zwickau in eastern Germany that the Republicans would soon be the third largest party in Germany. He said his party was attracting huge numbers of recruits in the economically depressed region, where racist violence erupted this summer in the Baltic port of Rostock. In Poland on Friday, Polish skinheads reacted to their German counterparts' attacks on Poles by savaging three German lorry drivers, killing one of them.

In Schwerin, a few hundred yards from Chancellor Kohl, left-wing extremists made organised attempts to disrupt the proceedings, but were broken up by a massive police presence. Left-wingers also rioted briefly in Berlin. Neo-Nazis celebrated reunification with marches in several

cities, giving Nazi salutes and shouting "foreigners out!" In half a dozen towns homes for asylum seekers were attacked with petrol bombs by small groups of men, and Jewish cemeteries were defaced. The head of Germany's anti-subversion department warned that the growth of political extremism had worrying parallels with the Weimar republic during the 1920s.

East Germans in the crowd at Schwerin seemed angry with the west German political classes in general. However, criticism is concentrated on Mr Kohl because of his past promises, which also included a guarantee that west German taxes would not have to rise to pay for the costs of reunification.

The failure to raise taxes has greatly increased Ger-

many's budget deficit, in turn forcing the Bundesbank to raise interest rates and harm other Western economies.

The influential liberal weekly *Die Zeit* said that, because of these "fundamental lies" by the Chancellor, it would be impossible for him to implement a new policy. There is now a general belief among German politicians that the next election will result in a "grand coalition" between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats under a new chancellor.

In a television address to mark the unification celebrations, Mr Kohl admitted that "the economic cure of the new federal states will last longer and cost more than we thought. Two years of German unity have been a learning process for all of us,

including me." The president, Richard von Weizsäcker, went much further, declaring that west Germans will have to give up rises in their incomes for five years to help to the east, which is something that they have so far decisively rejected. The president added that there is virtually no hope of bringing the east German economy up to the same level as that of the west by 2000.

Dr von Weizsäcker called for an "uncompromising implementation of the state's monopoly of force" against those who attack foreigners. He called on ordinary Germans to oppose such attacks, and not just to leave matters to the police, "or should it happen once again that we look away or even look on as helpless people are persecuted?"

EC prepares for Birmingham meeting

Suspicion of Britain mars summit agenda

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers assemble here today for another round of group therapy on the Maastricht treaty, paralysed by the disenchantment and lack of interest of Europe's voters.

The meeting will be the final rehearsal for several initiatives that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, hopes to float at the Community's special summit in Birmingham next week. It takes place in a climate polluted by threats, fears of a "two-speed Europe", neurotic money markets and mutual mistrust.

Britain is still the object of deep suspicion in other capitals, where the fear is that, despite what he says to the contrary, John Major would be happy to see the Maastricht treaty die. The prime minister's announcement that he will restart Maastricht debates in the Commons in the New Year has eased some anxieties but has not dispelled the feeling that he and his ministers are not true believers in the treaty's value.

But open discussion of Europe reshaping itself, if

Maastricht does not survive, into a hierarchy divided by power and wealth has also stirred unease among some of Britain's Community partners. The Waigel, the German finance minister who is keen on a single-currency zone dominated by the mark, has been attacked by leaders of weaker EC economies for threatening to dissolve the Community's tradition of cross-subsidy from rich north to poor south. The Dutch government, whose economic interests would force it into a mark currency zone, loathes the idea of a political union dominated by Germany.

Mr Hurd will today hope to re-establish Britain's priorities: helping Eastern Europe and making the EC more open and accountable. Europe's governments are all theoretically in favour of Eastern Europe, just as they are of greater openness and "subsidiarity", effectively the lessening of the European Commission's power. But practice is another matter. New trade agreements with Romania and Bulgaria may

be tripped up if the Germans balk at opening Western Europe's black-cherry markets to more competitive fruit from the East. The Greeks are also fearful of an avalanche of cheap Bulgarian goat meat.

Similar difficulties will complicate Mr Hurd's first practical move on subsidiarity. He will propose that governments should be able to hold up a draft EC law by arguing that its purpose could be as well, or better, served by national governments. Ministers would base their claim on the definition of subsidiarity written into the Maastricht treaty which is not yet in force.

Although their EC ambassadors agreed the change last week, France and Germany have served notice that they do not want this anti-Brussels weapon used too hastily. Denmark also has reservations.

Subsidiarity is a minefield into which Mr Hurd has only just walked. French officials are even sniffling about it being anything new. "Just as M Jourdain [in Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*] was talking prose without knowing it," said one diplomat, "so the EC has been practising subsidiarity for 20 years without being aware of it."

Britain next wants agreement at Birmingham on a list of national prerogatives, such as the power to award "stars" to hotels, which are off-limits to EC action. The Birmingham summit will also probably decide to open meetings of EC ministerial councils to the public. Officials anxious to respond to the concerns of the Danish voters who turned Maastricht down last June have found that 1987 Community rules already allow for public access.

Madrid: Mr Major received prime minister of Spain, for his refusal to re-negotiate Maastricht (Edward Owen writes). "In Birmingham it will have to be clear, it is not fitting to re-interpret something that has not been interpreted; it is not worth negotiating something that was, until June, and still is, at a satisfactory point of equilibrium." Señor González told Barcelona's *La Vanguardia* newspaper.

Times poll, page 1



Fleeting visit: Royal Naval sailors from three ships, the HMS Ledbury, Dulverton and Brocklesbury, enjoying a traditional Lithuanian welcome when they arrived at the port of Klaipeda over the weekend

Unions to decide on Italy strike

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

ITALIAN trade union leaders meet today to decide whether to call a general strike against the austerity measures introduced by Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, in an attempt to cut the country's spiralling public debt. The debt is already 106 per cent of gross national product.

Signor Amato's embattled four-party coalition finds itself under attack from all sides, with huge and sometimes violent trade union demonstrations signalling the public's distaste for his belt-tightening programme. The triumph of the Northern League in local elections in Mantua last week showed the strengths of the popular rebellion against the established political parties.

The league became the largest party in the city with nearly 34 per cent of the vote, while the Christian Democrats and Mr Amato's Socialists saw their support virtually halved.

Delors fires first shots in his fight to succeed Mitterrand

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WHILE France's political world continued to await a sign from the ailing President Mitterrand, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, yesterday climbed the debris of M Mitterrand's Socialist party and cleared a launch pad for a possible bid for the Elysée palace.

Spurred on by polls that put him at the top of the popularity charts, M Delors gathered half a dozen of the government's younger and more glamorous ministers about him in the Breton town of Lorient for the inauguration of his own political "club" within the Socialist party. To be known as *Témoin* (Witness), the group aims to "renew a social democracy which has run out of steam".

Delors said, had become "bad tempered and disenchanted, its democratic life full of wrinkles, its state bogged down and fractious, its social harmony in shreds".

Nothing could have provided more eloquent testimony to the dilapidated state of the one-party party of hope than a speech by Lionel Jospin, the man who succeeded M Mitterrand as its first secretary and

ran it for most of the 1980s. The Socialists could expect to be ejected from power in the coming months, he told the gathering, because they had broken too many promises, run out of ideas and succumbed to the country's general malaise.

M Delors said there was no question for the moment of his challenging Michel Rocard, the former prime minister who is the all-but-anointed Socialist presidential candidate. M Delors, 67, who served as finance minister in the early Mitterrand years, said he "would not abandon an unfinished building site" — a reference to the two years he still has left in Brussels — but his associates are making clear that he considers himself a contender.

Presidential elections are not due until 1995, but M Mitterrand's prostate cancer and the virtually certain defeat of the Socialists in parliamentary elections that must be held within the next seven months have sent the country into a period of electoral phony war. Polls last month indicated that, if an immediate election were held, M Delors could beat both Valéry

Giscard d'Estaing and Jacques Chirac, the two eternal presidential candidates from the centre and right. But M Delors and his team recognise that a real political race would be quite different from a popularity poll.

Elsewhere last week, the chattering classes homed on the senate, where the opposition UDF and RPR parties, which control the ineffectual upper house, squabbled and then agreed on who would succeed Alain Poher, its president for the past 24 years who retires at the age of 85. René Monory, a centrist politician who started as a rural garage owner, got the job in what was depicted as an act of unusual harmony between the two parties.

M Mitterrand, 76, who is working only one day a week on doctor's advice, could draw a little comfort from a six-point jump in his still low popularity ratings, according to polls published at the weekend. The experts put the rise down to sympathy for his illness and the success of the "yes" side in the recent referendum on Maastricht.

Diary, page 12

Abkhazia clashes threaten new war

Moscow: Russia and Georgia edged closer to war yesterday as the leaders of both republics appeared to be losing control over worsening hostilities in the Black Sea resort region of Abkhazia (Bruce Clark writes).

The Russian defence minister, Pavel Grachev, warned Eduard Shevardnadze not to implement a decision, announced by the Georgian leadership on Saturday, to appropriate all military hardware on the republic's territory.

He said it could lead to clashes between Georgian and Russian forces for which the Georgian side would be fully responsible.

In the war zone in north-western Georgia, Mr Shevardnadze's forces mounted repeated air raids on strongholds of the separatist Abkhazian minority, whose fighters seized the town of Gagra on Friday. The Georgian leader was in pessimistic mood when he returned to the Abkhazian capital of Sukhumi after a tour of the zone during which his helicopter was buzzed and fired on by unidentified assailants.

Havel solution

Prague: Vaclav Havel, the former Czechoslovak president, has called for an unconstitutional declaration of Czech independence to terminate the Czechoslovak federation, describing attempts to legalise the divorce from Slovakia as a waste of time.

Iliescu leads

Bucharest: A run-off in Romania's presidential race appeared inevitable, although preliminary official results placed President Iliescu ahead of Emil Constantinescu, his centrist challenger by 47.34 per cent to 31.24 per cent. (Reuters)

Pioneer dying

Mountain View, California: The first US spacecraft to orbit Venus will lose power and plummet toward the planet's surface this week. The Pioneer ran out of thruster propellant after circling Venus for the past 14 years. (AFP)

Up and away

Paris: Three prisoners used a helicopter to escape during the morning exercise period from Bois d'Arcy prison, southwest of Paris, flying to a sports ground nearby and then stealing a car to continue their getaway by road. (Reuters)

Secret courts

Algiers: Algeria has created secret courts to expedite terrorism and subversion cases in an attempt to counter violence blamed on Muslim fundamentalists, the official APS news agency said. The age of responsibility for such crimes has been lowered to 16. (AP)

Venus attracts

New York: Russia has begun selling some of its best top-secret satellite photos taken by space cameras. The *New York Times* reported. The paper said the photographs, circulated among reconnaissance experts, were far superior to any sold before. (Reuters)

Muslims expect UK troops to save them from war

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, ADAM LEBOR IN KARLOVAC AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH troops who are to be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina are regarded by Croat and Muslim communities there as their potential saviours from Serbian aggression. Those high expectations have underlined the dilemma facing the countries contributing to the expanded United Nations protection force in Bosnia.

At the weekend, aid flights to Sarajevo resumed one month after an Italian relief plane was shot down. Five planes landed, and food and medical supplies were unloaded as well as radar equipment to help the air lift.

The British soldiers will be flying into a war zone with a UN mandate that restricts them to a humanitarian mission, guarding food relief convoys to the victims of the fighting. But it has become clear that the suffering communities expect greater involvement in the civil war by the British troops.

Defence sources said it had to be made clear to the people in Bosnia that British troops



were not being sent to stop the fighting. The first British troops, part of an advance party of 300-400 soldiers, are expected to arrive in Bosnia in about two weeks.

A reconnaissance party returned from Bosnia at the end of last week after failing to reach any accommodation with Serbian warlords who

refused to allow the British team to cross their battle lines for a humanitarian mission that they saw as an attempt to help only their Croat and Muslim rivals.

London opposes any extension to the UN mandate that would lead to military intervention. Ministers say that if the British battle group suffers

an unacceptable level of casualties, they will be withdrawn. After an appeal from UN relief workers, hundreds of Bosnian Muslims, expelled from their homes and held for months in Serb-run detention camps, are to find sanctuary in the West. Many of the refugees, now held in a former army barracks in Karlovac, Croatia, say they witnessed atrocities by Serb forces. Western countries have so far agreed to take two-thirds of the refugees in the barracks.

Several refugees there claimed that in the camps educated people and community leaders were singled out to be executed. Amir, who was too frightened to give his real name, had been taken to a camp under Red Cross inspection in Trnopolje, northern Bosnia, after being held in Omarska, a notorious Serb-run camp. He said he was one of six survivors of a massacre near the village of Skender Vakuf. "We were put on buses and the Serbs said they would take us to meet our families,"

said Amir. "After a while we stopped and they ordered us out. They separated the women and children and took them away in another bus."

"They lined us up in front of a ravine. I don't know if somebody pushed me or I jumped, but I tumbled down. There were a lot of bodies and I heard shooting and grenades being thrown."

In Belgrade, a UNICEF spokeswoman said that children would die in Serbia and Montenegro this winter because of sanctions. "The UN children's fund is calling for a partial lifting of sanctions so that heating oil can be imported."

SEE FRONT PAGE OF LIFE & TIMES

I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

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		Rate A	Rate NA
ABBEY NATIONAL HIGH YIELD BOND (Annual Interest)		9.20*	NA
	£50,000 plus	9.40	7.05
	£25,000 up to £49,999	9.10	6.83
	£10,000 up to £24,999	8.80	6.60
(Monthly Interest)	£50,000 plus	9.02	6.77
	£25,000 up to £49,999	8.74	6.56
	£10,000 up to £24,999	8.46	6.35
ABBEY NATIONAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (Annual Interest)		8.25	6.19
	£25,000 plus	7.85	5.89
	£10,000 up to £24,999	7.55	5.61
(Monthly Interest)	£25,000 plus	7.95	5.96
	£10,000 up to £24,999	7.58	5.69
	£500 up to £9,999	6.74	5.06
INSTANT SAVER (Annual Interest)		7.70	5.78
	£25,000 plus	7.30	5.48
	£10,000 up to £24,999	6.80	5.10
	£5,000 up to £9,999	6.40	4.95
	£2,500 up to £4,999	6.40	4.80
	£1 up to £499	3.00	2.25
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT (Annual Interest)		6.95	5.21
	£25,000 plus	6.35	4.69
	£10,000 up to £24,999	5.10	3.33
(Monthly Interest)	£25,000 plus	6.74	5.06
	£10,000 up to £24,999	6.08	4.56
	£2,500 up to £9,999	4.98	3.74
	£1,000 up to £2,499	4.36	3.27
CURRENT ACCOUNT (Monthly Interest)		1.50	1.13
Accounts no longer available for opening:			
HIVE STAR (Annual Interest)		5.45	4.09
	£25,000 plus	5.15	3.86
	£10,000 up to £24,999	4.55	3.41
	£5,000 up to £4,999	4.15	3.11
STERLING ASSET+ (Annual Interest)		8.25	6.19
	£25,000 plus	7.85	5.89
	£10,000 up to £24,999	7.55	5.61
(Monthly Interest)	£25,000 plus	8.02	6.02
	£10,000 up to £24,999	7.64	5.73
	£1,000 up to £9,999	6.79	5.09
TAXSAVER (Annual Interest)		5.65	4.24
	£10,000 plus	5.15	3.86
	£500 up to £9,999	0.50	0.38
SAVER (Annual Interest)		0.50	0.38

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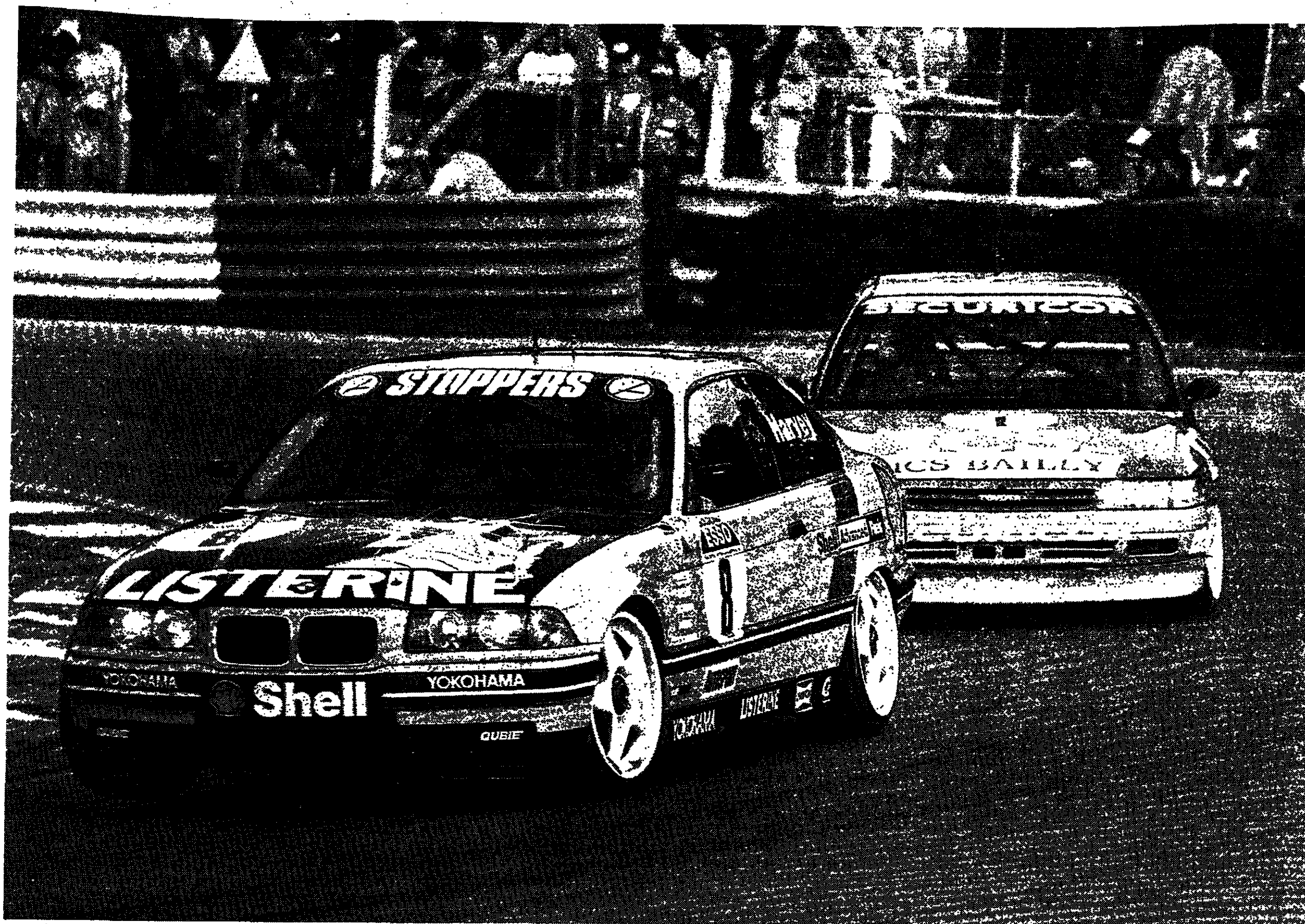
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Bush and Clinton opt for high-risk format on debates

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

ADVISERS to President Bush and Bill Clinton, his Democratic challenger, have set the stage for a frenetic finale to the 1992 election by agreeing at the weekend to compress three presidential debates into just nine days.

Both campaigns accept that holding the debates in such quick succession is likely to add a new element of uncertainty to the election. By opting for the tight timetable and for a rule change which would transform the debates from being the glorified press conferences of past elections into more freewheeling encounters, both the Bush and Clinton camps have chosen a high-risk strategy.

A further wild card has been thrown into proceedings in the shape of Ross Perot, the Texan billionaire who rejoined the race for the White House last week. Mr Perot is likely to become the first third-party candidate ever to participate in presidential debates. The Dallas businessman showed no signs yesterday of planning to decline an invitation to participate.

Both the Bush and Clinton camps expressed satisfaction yesterday with their agreement on the format of the 90-minute debates. After three days of haggling, a final agreement was drawn up on Saturday. The first debate will take place at St Louis on Octo-



ber 11, the second in Richmond, Virginia, on October 15, and a third in East Lansing, Michigan on October 19. One of the debates will be conducted by a panel of three journalists and is unlikely to see much direct sparring between the candidates. In Richmond, the debate is likely to be more spontaneous with the candidates responding to questions from the audience. The Michigan debate will be conducted for half the time by a moderator and for 45 minutes by a panel of journalists. A vice-presidential debate will take place on October 13 in Atlanta.

In some ways the ground rules seemed to be shaped by Mr Clinton's preferences. Last month, Bush campaign managers refused to dispense with the panel format whereby journalists quiz the candidates about their policies. They feared that the president

would suffer if there was more spontaneity in the debate. The Bush camp also wanted the final debate to take place only two days before polling day, which, they believed, would give the president a chance to catch up if he was still trailing in the opinion polls.

The Republicans clearly hope now that the compressed schedule and the varied format will shake up the election and help Mr Bush narrow Mr Clinton's lead.

The Bush camp is entering the debates in the same spirit with which it greeted Mr Perot's re-entry into the race. The president's advisers feel that Mr Bush has little to lose and that anything unpredictable which could force Mr Clinton to miss a stride is welcome. However, there is still some nervousness about how Mr Bush will fare in the debate. During talks with the Democrats over the ground rules, the Republican negotiators tried to protect their candidate by arguing that he should be allowed to use props such as notes, which have traditionally not been permitted in presidential debates. That effort was rebuffed by the Democrats and Mr Clinton was quick to publicise the Republicans' suggestion. "Can you imagine?" he asked journalists travelling with him in the industrial Midwest. "I took my breath away."



Trail of terror: the scene in Pinellas Park, Florida, after tornados with 90mph winds killed at least three people. President Bush, who was criticised for his handling of the previous Hurricane Andrew, flew to Florida to see for himself and narrowly escaped one of the storms

Mr Clinton was not the only one to start an embarrassing display of pre-debate manoeuvring. All the candidates want to reduce media expectations of their performances, in order to blunt criticism should they fail to do well in debate. On Friday, Mr Clinton and his aides sought to portray Mr Bush as a world champion in the art. "Mr Bush is a good debater in spite of all his talk about being at a disadvantage to me because I went to Oxford," Mr Clinton said in Missouri. "I never studied debates at Oxford."

Last week Dan Quayle, the vice-president, said that he might not do well in his debate because while he had gone through state education, Senator Al Gore, Mr Clinton's running mate, had attended private schools. One point the Democrats lost in the debate about debates at the weekend was over whether Ross Perot should be invited to participate. Mr Clinton's negotiators had opposed his attendance. The Clinton camp is worried that his presence might make viewers think Mr Bush is being

ganged up against. They also believe Mr Perot will act as an obstacle to Mr Clinton striking directly at the president.

"I think he just gets in the way," said Pat Panella, a member of the Democratic National Committee. "It's going to give Bush less time to answer the tough questions."

The debates are a big opportunity for Mr Perot to get back into the race. Pollsters are already arguing that he is going to find it difficult to make an impact. A *Newsweek* magazine poll conducted on Thursday and Friday showed Mr Clinton retaining an 8 per cent lead over Mr Bush and gave Mr Perot only 14 per cent of the vote.

A Gallup poll at the weekend suggested that the voters' angry anti-politics mood,

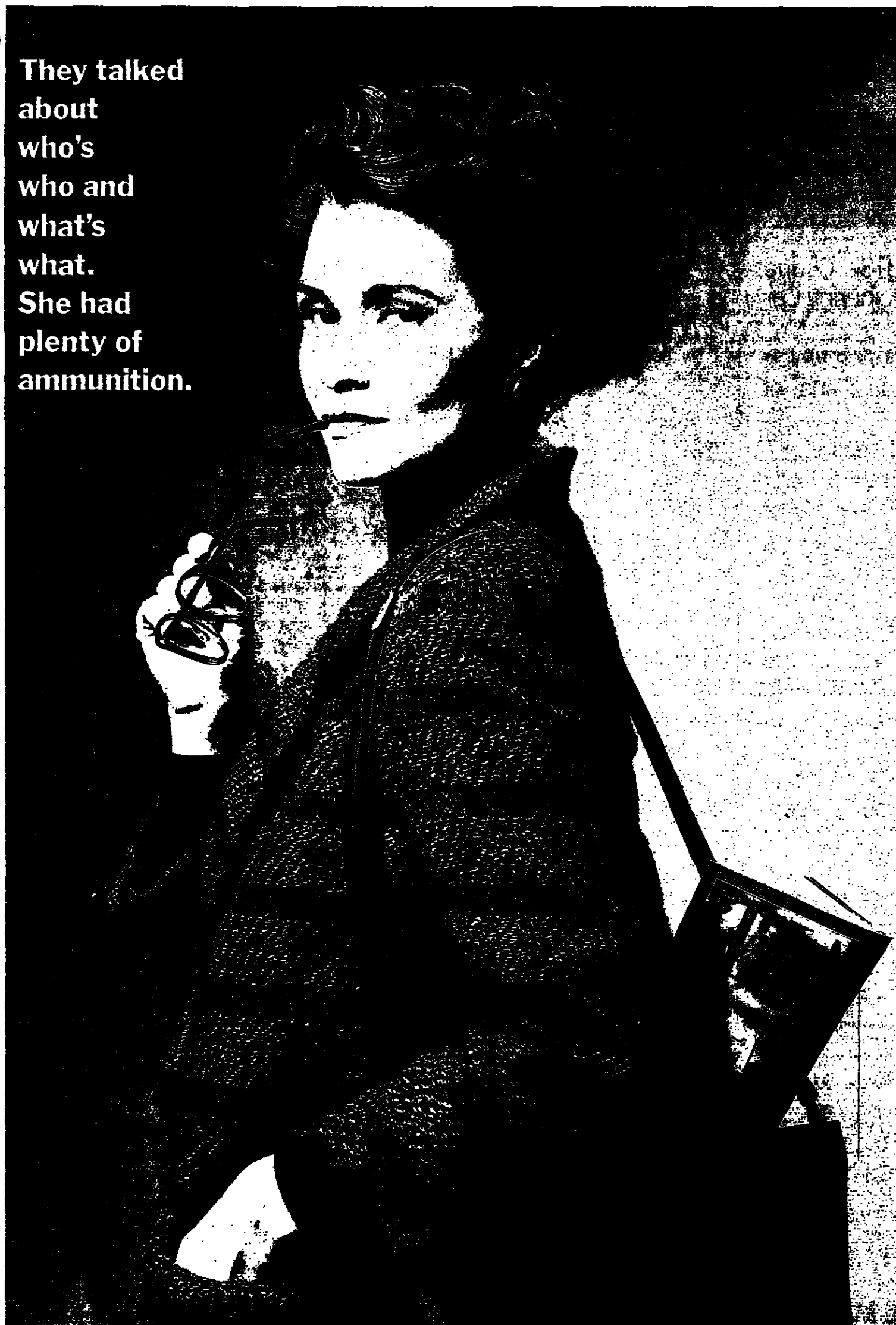
which Mr Perot exploited in the spring and summer is fading fast. The survey found that only one in four Americans could be classified as "angry" about the political system now as compared to four in ten last April. Some surprisingly positive views of the two main candidates emerged. Six in ten of those asked agreed that Mr Perot did not have the "kind of personality and temperament it takes to serve effectively as president."

As polling day approaches it becomes more likely that Mr Perot will be marginalised. If he is to have any influence on the outcome of the race, his campaign must get going this week. Apart from buying three half-hour slots for commercials on television networks,

Mr Perot has still not drawn up any campaign plans. He spent the weekend in Dallas with a handful of close aides, none of whom has political experience, trying to plot his strategy. Mr Perot's main impact is likely to come in Texas and Florida, two states crucial to Mr Bush's re-election prospects.

The president has continued to campaign hard in Florida in an effort to overcome criticism of his administration for its handling of the aftermath of the August hurricane. He was in Clearwater and Fort Lauderdale on Saturday as tornados wrought further destruction to the state. Mr Bush escaped one tornado by just over an hour, hopping aboard Air Force One at Clearwater's airport.

They talked about who's who and what's what. She had plenty of ammunition.



War hero puts courage to test on the political stage

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FOR James Bond Stockdale last week was perhaps the most extraordinary of his long and remarkable life. One minute the Vietnam war hero was an academic in California writing a book on the Greek Stoic philosopher Epictetus. The next he was Ross Perot's running mate, candidate for vice-president of the United States.

Mr Stockdale, 68, a retired admiral, flew to Dallas for Mr Perot's announcement armed with an appropriate Epictetan pearl: "A life not put to the test is not worth living." A week tomorrow he faces the ultimate challenge. In a vice-presidential debate broadcast live to tens of millions of Americans, this political novice must hold his own in a face-to-face confrontation with Dan Quayle and Al Gore.

Mr Stockdale's colleagues at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, worried that he will be torn to shreds, are helping him to prepare. "Normally we talk about concepts like obligation and virtue, the relationship of man to providence and man to the state," John Buzzel, a specialist in American politics, said. Not once had they discussed such prosaic matters as "the environment, the homeless, the

gender gap". Mr Stockdale's candidature is an accident. Mr Perot made him his "interim" running mate last March simply to fulfil the requirements for getting on some states' ballots. When the Texas billionaire withdrew from the race in July, he still had not chosen his real running mate, and by the time he re-entered last week it was too late.

Mr Stockdale brings no political experience to the ticket, but exudes courage and has a biography that is the envy of every other candidate. As a navy combat pilot, he led the first American bombing raid on North Vietnam on August



Stockdale: called to Perot's colours

5, 1964. The next year his A-4 jet was shot down, and he parachuted into a North Vietnamese coastal village where "the town roughnecks" beat him and broke his left knee. It still does not bend. He spent the next seven years in Hanoi's infamous Hoa Lo, or "Fleury Furnace", prison camp, four in solitary confinement and two in leg irons.

As the highest-ranking American prisoner in North Vietnam, he imposed strict order on his fellow captives, later seeking mutiny charges against two of them for aiding the enemy. He was tortured, but deliberately inflicted pain on himself to convince his interrogators that torturing him was futile.

"The central problem in prison was to build a civilisation in which life made sense," Mr Stockdale said. "There was a whole discipline built to deal with such circumstances, and that was Stoicism." On his release he was awarded the Medal of Honour.

His wife, Sybil, had met Mr Perot in the late 1960s when they were both campaigning for the release of American prisoners of war in Vietnam, and the two men have been friends "ever since I got off the plane from Hanoi in 1973".

New Age fans battle with sceptics in Tacoma court

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON STATE

Every morning a strange group assembles outside the county courthouse in Tacoma, Washington. Mostly they are middle-aged women in pastel tracksuits. A few are young and earnest, some sport religious bracelets and carry New Age religious texts; but they all wear the determined expression of the utterly convinced. These are "Ramsters", devotees of America's most famous New Age "channeler", J. Z. Knight, or, more precisely, of the spirit she claims to "channel" — a 35,000-year-old warrior she calls Ramtha.

For the past four weeks the Tacoma courthouse has been the scene of an intense battle between Ms Knight and her supporters on one side and her former husband and his lawyers on the other. More broadly, the case has pitched proponents of New Age religion against critics and sceptics.

Jeffrey Knight is suing his former wife, claiming that she used mind-control techniques (namely his belief in Ramtha's teachings, which

he now rejects as fraudulent) to force him to take just \$120,000 (£70,000) as a divorce settlement in 1989. This was only a tiny fraction of the millions of dollars the couple amassed in the 1980s by marketing Ramtha paraphernalia and charging devotees up to \$1,000 each to hear Ramtha's voice emerging from Ms Knight's mouth.

Mr Knight now claims he deserves a far larger share of the proceeds. He also says he has the Aids virus but failed to seek medical help when he first found out about it because Ramtha told him not to.

Ms Knight's followers (who in the past have included such celebrities as Linda Evans, star of *Dynasty*, and Shirley MacLaine) say she is being persecuted because, in the words of her attorney, her beliefs are not "mainstream, middle-American Christianity".

That view is echoed by many of Ms Knight's pastel-suited defenders, who cluster around her as she strides into court, her blonde mane

streaming behind her. "Everything that woman says is the gospel truth," one of her attendants confided. "Ramtha is not going to manifest himself just to please a court."

But that is precisely what many of the spectators who daily crowd into Court 211 are hoping for. For the past decade, Ms Knight has apparently been able to summon at will the spirit of Ramtha (a Cro-Magnon fugitive from Atlantis, she says, and part of a pantheon of benign spirits) who first spoke through her in her kitchen in 1977. She was at that time the wife of a dentist living in a suburb of Tacoma.

But, although she has in the past sent out brochures to the faithful advertising forthcoming manifestations of Ramtha, Ms Knight maintains she has no control over when or where he will appear and so far she has resolutely refused to put him on the witness stand.

The case is expected to continue for some weeks.

TIME INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S NEWSMAGAZINE

EX 1120150

First steps to peace in southern Africa

Angola ballot puts Savimbi on guard

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

PRESIDENT dos Santos of Angola looked set yesterday to win the country's first election amid mounting fears that his rival, Jonas Savimbi, could refuse to accept defeat and resume the civil war at the head of his guerrilla army.

On Saturday, Dr Savimbi accused the government of electoral fraud and intimidation, as Mr dos Santos and the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) took 53 per cent of the vote against 36 per cent for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita). Dr Savimbi called on his supporters to remain calm

during the count and said armed cadres were on guard all over the country.

Throughout the election campaign Dr Savimbi had struck an aggressive note, and suggested that if Unita lost, the elections would have been unfair. Observers have regarded Dr Savimbi's reaction to losing as fundamental to the future of the country which emerged from civil war last May after 16 years that destroyed all basic services outside the capital, Luanda. However, his statements over the weekend became more conciliatory in tone as Unita representatives took their com-

plaints to the national electoral council, which is expected to publish the final result of the elections today.

One Western ambassador cautioned against predictions of an outbreak of war after a defeat for Dr Savimbi. "We are all doing a nannying job on both Unita and the government and have cautioned against provocation. Recently we have put a little more pressure on Unita. The reaction of Savimbi to a defeat has always been critical; there is a possibility of a lurch into violence but not war. There are lots of people on both sides who say they should not do it. One thing is certain: the Angolans are sick of war and have voted for peace."

Even in the south of the country where Unita is strong, I believe there has been an acceptance of the democratic process and an understanding that if they lose this time, they will have another crack in the next election. Both the government and Unita have underestimated the Angolans who have very acute political antennae," he said.

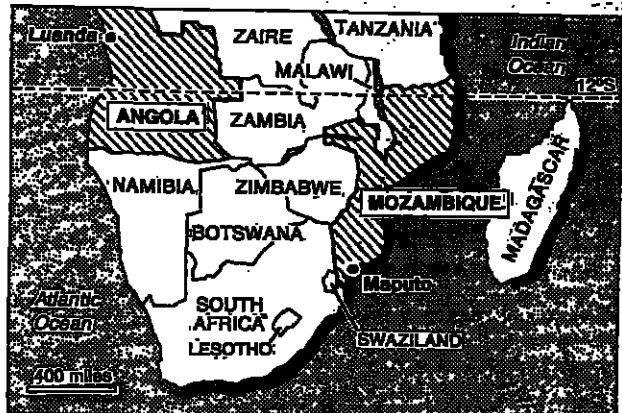
Dr Savimbi was expected last night to close the gap with Mr dos Santos as results came in from Bie, Huambo, and other provinces where support for him is strong, but he is most unlikely to pass the incumbent. In some areas, such as Moxico, where he was expected to do well, the MPLA has won.

Many observers put his relatively poor showing in rural areas down to the indiscriminate laying of mines during the civil war, which drove farmers off the land into the cities, where the MPLA was able to control the media. International observers were struck by the scrupulous fairness of polling and the remarkable turnout of at least 85 per cent. The count has been hampered by logistical problems and slowed by the fact that each vote is counted and checked several times.

Onofre dos Santos, the chairman of the electoral council, said that although Unita had presented him with a long list of complaints, the party had not produced any figures to substantiate their allegations of fraud. "Still, we will investigate, but it will take some time," he said. It is difficult for Unita to deal with this situation [electoral defeat] as it is not a party like any other. It was a disciplined, military organisation," he added.



Savimbi asked cadres to remain calm



Mozambique sides end 16-year war

BY JAN RAATH IN MAPUTO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Chissano of Mozambique and the rebel leader, Afonso Dhlakama, signed a peace treaty yesterday to end the 16-year civil war that has devastated the country and left more than a million people dead.

"Now begins a new era," Mr Chissano said during a ceremony at the Italian foreign ministry in Rome. "This moment gives the Mozambican people the most precious and noble gift of peace."

Mr Chissano and Mr Dhlakama embraced after signing the seven-part agreement in the presence of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, among others. "Well done Joaquim, well done Afonso," Mr Mugabe said.

Emilio Colombo, the Italian foreign minister, added: "Peace has won." A ceasefire will take effect as soon as the treaty is ratified by the Mozambique parliament, probably later this week.

It will mark the theoretical end of southern Africa's last big conflict which began shortly after independence from Portugal in 1975. Millions have been forced to flee their homes by the fighting between government troops and Mr Dhlakama's Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance Movement). Countless other people have died of hunger.

"There is no fully appropriate term in the English language to describe the prolonged state of destitution, misery and struggle to survive," Africa Watch, the hu-

man rights organisation, said in a report on Mozambique issued last month.

But the country's most strenuous test will run from today until the end of the 30-day period, before the ceasefire comes into effect. Mozambique is beset by obstacles that cannot wait for resolution in a month's time. Last week, all foreigners, apart from Red Cross officials, were evacuated from the towns of Nampula and Chimio.

Mozambique's 15 million people are in an appalling condition. The World Bank says they are the poorest with the lowest per capita gross national product in the world, while the United States Agency for International Development has them as the world's hungriest, with a daily intake of only 1,605 calories. In the government-controlled areas of the countryside, devastated by drought, food reaches people occasionally by cumbersome military convoy, while those in Renamo-held territory have nothing, even the traditional emergency reserves of wild berries, roots and grasses having run out.

● **Kinshasa:** Troops loyal to President Mobutu have deployed around Zaire's central bank with tanks in a new trial of strength between the president and prime minister, witnesses said yesterday. The soldiers moved in after Etienne Tshisekedi, the prime minister, dismissed Nyembha Shabani, the central bank governor. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13



Day of mourning: Ray Walters and his wife Jill, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, with their son John, mourn the deaths of their daughter Joanne and her friend, Caroline Clarke, of Farham, Surrey, at a service in Bowral, 80 miles from Sydney, Australia, yesterday on the spot where the

women, both 22, were found murdered two weeks ago. Joanne, a former nanny and Caroline, a Pizza Hut assistant manager, disappeared in April after leaving Sydney to hitch-hike to Melbourne to go fruit-picking. They had arrived in Australia separately last year on working holidays and began travel-

ling together after meeting in Tasmania. They withdrew cash from a bank on April 17 after leaving their hotel, and nothing was heard of them until the police discovered their bodies in a shallow grave. The police are hunting a man seen camping with two women near where their bodies were found.

Minority to vote in Kuwait

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ONLY one in seven of the indigenous population of Kuwait votes today to elect a 50-seat parliament in a country which has changed dramatically since being invaded by Iraq just over two years ago.

The \$60 billion (£35 million) cost of the war is threatening to turn Kuwait Inc, as many cynics refer to the Gulf emirate run by the al-Sabah family, into a net borrower next year for the first time. The state still faces bellicose claims that it is the 19th province of Iraq, affecting the confidence of its citizens.

"We have development plans only on paper. After 45 years of reaping oil revenues, all that we have is disfigured development that is more consumer than production oriented," Abdullah al-Nibari, a candidate for the opposition Democratic Forum, said.

Since the invasion the size of the population has halved to 1.2 million with about 400,000 Palestinians driven out as suspected collaborators of President Saddam Hussein. Whatever the result, due to be declared at noon tomorrow, the new parliament will face demands for an extension of the franchise to women, a lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 and the granting of votes to a much wider cross-section of Kuwaiti males.

Iran's submarine purchase tilts Gulf power balance

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KUWAIT CITY

THE imminent arrival in the Gulf of the first of three Iranian submarines, the first to operate in the waterway, will pose serious problems for Western naval ships now patrolling there.

The dangers were signalled to home governments after senior British, American, French and Australian naval commanders met their Gulf Arab counterparts in Dubai in last month. The US Senate has now voted to cut off all but humanitarian aid to Moscow if its arms sales to Iran continue.

Despite Washington's strong opposition, Moscow has confirmed that the \$375 million sale will go ahead. The diesel-powered vessels threaten a shift in the balance of naval power that the pro-Western Arab navies are not yet equipped to handle.

The first submarine sailed from Latvia last week and is being tracked by the West and is expected in the Gulf within the next three weeks. No date has been given for delivery of the others, identically armed with 18 torpedoes and the capacity for laying up to 24 mines each with 1,000lb of explosives.

Their purchase, just when Iran is trying to become the regional superpower in response to Iraq's weakness, is seen as a move to control the entrance to the Gulf, conduit



ment that can be used with helicopters carrying homing torpedoes, is briefing the West's Arab allies about ways to counter the Iranian threat. That will involve the purchase of costly anti-submarine warfare equipment never needed before.

"The Royal Navy has made a commitment to share our experience in anti-submarine warfare with members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (led by Saudi Arabia) and to discuss with them what options are now open in light of this new situation," Captain Hogg said.

American aircraft and the 24 ships belonging to the American Gulf battle fleet have also been placed on alert to monitor the arrival of the first submarine which will carry a mixed Russian and Iranian crew of 45.

The arrival of the first Kilo-class submarine, a modern boat well suited to operations in enclosed water, comes when tension in the Gulf is at its highest since last year's war because of Iran's territorial ambitions and expensive arms purchases running at more than £1 billion a year.

Iran's virtual annexation of the strategic island of Abu Musa, previously shared with the United Arab Emirates, has led to fears among commanders that the island will become a submarine base.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Attack on Emperor Akihito foiled

Tokyo: An elderly, quick-witted official saved Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan from an attempted attack by a Japanese man at the opening ceremony of an athletics meeting in Yamagata prefecture, 250 miles north of Tokyo, at the weekend (Joanna Pitman writes).

During the emperor's opening speech, a middle-aged man in a dark suit leapt on to the running track and lobbed a smoke bomb towards the royal box. The capacity crowd of 60,000 watched as the official, clad all in white, tackled the man and wrestled him to the ground. The assailant who was immediately arrested was being questioned by police last night.

Radical groups have been protesting the government's controversial decision to accept Peking's invitation for Emperor Akihito to visit China, an invitation which has been turned down every year for the past five years. The groups believe that the emperor might be forced to apologise for Japan's wartime record in China.

Youths riot

Nouakchott: The Mauritanian authorities imposed a curfew after riots started when youths took to the streets of the capital in protest against sharp price rises and a sudden fall in the value of the ouguiya, the local currency. (Reuters)

Soldier killed

Ankara: An American soldier was killed accidentally when the rotor blades of a helicopter from the USS *Iwo Jima*, an amphibious assault ship, struck him as he tried to direct it during Nato war games in the Aegean Sea. (Reuters)

Mission fails

Jerusalem: Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, failed in a mission to the Middle East. M. Dumas, who visited Syria, Egypt and Israel, had hoped to mediate a meeting between President Assad of Syria and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister.

Labor loses

Melbourne: Australia's ruling Labor party was swept from power in elections in Victoria. With four-fifths of the state's votes counted, Labor's support had slumped to 43.8 per cent; its conservative opponents had 56.2 per cent. (AFP)

Deaths studied

Managua: A commission formed by the government, the Roman Catholic Church and the Organisation of American States will investigate recent violent deaths of former combatants. Officials say hundreds of murders remain unsolved. (AP)

Cash prize

Knoxville: George Jewett, a friend of the author, bought the Pulitzer Prize that Alex Haley won for *Roots* for \$50,000 (£29,000) at an auction held to pay off \$1.5 million in debts left by Haley at his death in February. (AP)

UK warns Guyana on election

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN has warned Guyana not to rig the elections today and has expressed concern at restrictions placed on foreign diplomatic observers.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, wrote last week to Desmond Hoyte, the Guyanese prime minister, expressing Britain's unhappiness at the government's decision to allow only accredited ambassadors in Georgetown to be present at polling stations to monitor the vote.

The Foreign Office said that the restriction, announced ten days ago, would make it impossible to ensure that the elections were free and fair. It violated Guyana's undertaking last year to allow proper monitoring of the vote. It also flouted the resolution at last year's Commonwealth conference to allow independent observers to monitor elections in countries where questions might be raised about their fairness.

The election could see the return to power of Dr Cheddi Jagan, who last held power for seven years until 1964. Each of the five general elections since then has resulted in victory for the People's National Congress.

Saint from slums poised to win Rio poll

Rhythmic samba tunes thrived from a Rio de Janeiro *favela* (slum) as thousands of its inhabitants headed for polling booths to select their new mayor during municipal elections in Brazil over the weekend. The sound of drums and singing filled the narrow, muddy paths of the shanty town.

They carried red banners and leaflets and held up pictures of their favoured candidate, a fellow slum dweller called Benedita da Silva, a descendant from African slaves. She has captured the votes of most of the 2.7 million slum dwellers who live in makeshift homes that are precariously perched on the hills that make up the city of Rio.

"She has campaigned to change things for Rio's slum dwellers. But she is also the favourite for mayor in Rio as a whole, and we are happy that finally someone will win who will represent our needs," said Silvia, one of dozens of youths handing out leaflets promoting Senhora da Silva on the streets surrounding the slum, which lies just behind the row of luxury hotels on Copacabana and Leme beaches.

Recent polls published in the local newspapers put Senhora da Silva well ahead

Brazil voters have had enough of corrupt politicians after the impeachment of Collor, Gabriella Gamini writes

with 26 per cent of the vote. Results are not due to be released until early this week. Although she has won many votes by promising much needed social services and employment opportunities to Rio's poor, she has also captured the vote of the intellectual middle-class.

Her party has led the campaign to force the impeachment of President Collor de Mello, who awaits a trial in the senate and is accused of being involved in a multi-million corruption scandal masterminded by his former campaign treasurer.

A political analyst said: "She belongs to the PT (Labour party), a left-wing opposition group, which was very vociferous in calling for the impeachment, a call which millions of Brazilians echoed in demonstrations. This will add extra votes for mayors in municipal elections, because it is in everybody's mind," he added. PT is also the party of Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, Senhor Collor's closest rival in the 1989

presidential elections. "Senhor Collor represented conservative thought. But he failed miserably to keep his anti-corruption promises, so his crisis will lead to increased support for left-wing parties," said another local analyst.

Senhora da Silva's promises and those of other candidates, who follow her in the polls, have raised the hopes of voters who believe the impeachment of Senhor Collor will stamp out corruption from government and make politicians concentrate on working for a better future for Brazilians, who suffer from high inflation rates and regular economic crises.

"Benedita is someone we compare with a character of a story in which good fights evil. We are going to demand that more from politicians now," said one of thousands of *Cariocas*, as Rio's inhabitants are called, who filled the streets of the city on Saturday and queued to vote in schools and banks.

Voting was taken seriously, all shops were shut and no

drinking was allowed. Not all *Cariocas* are Benedita supporters. Some fear her focus on helping street children and families, forced to live in cardboard shacks set up in parks and along roadsides, will increase the high level of crime.

"She is just concentrating on helping those who steal in the streets and make Rio dangerous," said Luis Debonville, a taxi-driver. But he is a minority. Most blame the high rates of crime on the so far total disregard for social services and education.

In Rio's largest *favela*, Rosinha, where more than 400,000 people live in brick and corrugated iron shacks, dwellers scrape together a living with occasional jobs and begging. Others make it by trafficking cocaine and some may turn to crime.

But whoever becomes Rio's mayor will face stronger demands to fulfil on promises. "We had become so used to corrupt politicians. But the impeachment trial has raised hopes for change," Ricardo Azury, a local journalist, said. "People are going to want more because they saw that their protests managed to topple the government of Collor. So *Cariocas* are demanding a change."

Death toll reaches 111 as Brazil troops put down jail uprising

FROM STAN LEHMAN OF ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SAO PAULO

A GANG fight and riot in Latin America's largest prison, Carandiru, in Brazil, left 111 inmates dead and injured 34 riot troops sent to put down the uprising at the overcrowded jail.

Inmates sought with homemade knives, pipes and pistols they seized from guards they had overwhelmed in battles on Friday, Pedro Franco de Campo, the São Paulo state security director, said that the uprising quickly spread as inmates burnt mattresses, beds and blankets in one building.

Most of the prisoners seemed to have died at the hands of other inmates, although one policeman said the 300 riot troops sent in were allowed to shoot in self-defence. "It was not a police massacre," Senhor de Campo said. "Most of the deaths were caused by the inmates themselves."

Distressed families, some crying and shouting, scuffled with the police and tried to get inside the prison in São Paulo's northern working-class district.

Luis Antonio Fleury, the state governor, said: "I lament the deaths at the prison. What we now have to verify is if the police action was called for."

The prison, which holds

7,500 inmates but is built to hold 4,000, has long been criticized by human rights groups. The fight at the prison's Pavilion 9 began on Friday afternoon when one inmate hit another over the head with a lead pipe in a dispute over cocaine. Other prisoners who had planned a mass escape became furious with the two for drawing

attention to their area of the prison and started a mass brawl in an outdoor recreation area. The incident could pose yet another problem for Itamar Franco, Brazil's new acting president. He was sworn in on Friday to take the place of President Collor de Mello, who faces an impeachment trial over an influence-peddling scandal.



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Tory bandages torn apart

The Thatcher era still haunts the cabinet, writes Peter Riddell

John Major has always lacked that political quality which Winston Churchill vividly attributed to Joseph Chamberlain, an ability to "make the weather". Mr Major has looked a transitional figure, the ideal politician to heal the wounds of the end of the Thatcher era rather than to set a new agenda. He was chosen in November 1990 as the most suitable candidate to unite the Tory party, to deal with the poll tax and Europe, and to prevent an election defeat. He succeeded beyond all expectations. April 9 was his victory. He was his own man at last, with his own mandate.

While it is absurd to talk about Majorism as a doctrine, Mr Major has developed a distinctive approach, managerial perhaps, rather than crusading, but none the worse for that. As Sir Norman Fowler says in his interview with *The Times* today, one of the central pillars of Tory strategy is the modernising of public services. That might have been the Brighton conference in happier times; there is plenty to be done in that area to occupy any government. The snag is that public services reform is not enough when the other pillars, membership of the exchange rate mechanism and being at the heart of Europe, have either collapsed or been severely shaken.

Mr Major has discovered over the past three weeks that he has not escaped the shadow of his predecessor. Party battles over Europe and the economy have restarted as after a lull in the fighting during the hundred-years war. Perversely, the fiercest skirmishes have been among the ermined veterans reliving their old struggles, in which Lord Lawson has so far had the edge. But they are has-beens, and the predictions of Baroness Thatcher returning to power ridiculous fantasies. If she did become the first prime minister sitting in the House of Lords since Lord Salisbury 90 years ago, she would presumably, like him, have to find her cabinet from the upper house.

By contrast, the present cabinet is less divided than the more lurid headlines suggest. That is partly because of Mr Major's consensual style. He likes to discuss, consider and weigh the options before acting. At last Thursday's political cabinet, as the section on party matters is known, he went round the table seeking everybody's opinion. This is unlike his predecessor, who said he wanted a discussion and then laid down the law. Mr Major ensures that all go along with the final decision.

In practice, Mr Major had no choice but to do what he did last Thursday and press ahead with the Maastricht bill. Not only is that the view of a clear majority of the cabinet, but there is no alternative strategy which would leave Britain with influence over the develop-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

ment of the EC in a free-market direction and towards enlargement. Euro-scepticism is a blind alley for the Tories, just as opposition to repeal of the Corn Laws was in the middle of the last century and tariff reform was earlier this century. Sir Teddy Taylor and William Cash are implausible heirs to Disraeli.

Mr Major's economic pillar is still lying in ruins. After some initial, fanciful talk about withdrawal being a cause for celebration, the awkward realities of a floating-rate regime are now being faced. Not only inflation but also interest rates may be higher in a year to 18 months' time than if we had stayed in the ERM. September 16 was a severe defeat, and unlike

'Mr Major has discovered over the past three weeks that he has not escaped the shadow of his predecessor'

with the Maastricht bill, Mr Major has not yet begun to regain the initiative over economic policy. It is increasingly doubtful whether he can do so while Mr Lamont remains Chancellor. While his decisions reflected cabinet policy, Mr Lamont has lost too much credibility with the markets. But whoever is in charge, the government needs a new policy in place quickly. That means not only a tough fiscal

monetary stance but also firmer commitments about re-entering the ERM. Trying to win the acquiescence of the Euro-sceptics for Maastricht by procrastinating over the ERM may preserve party unity, but it may not convince the financial world.

The ERM and Maastricht are not the only signs that British politics has not yet adjusted to the end of the Thatcher era, that we are still in a transitional phase. For instance, the other side of government plans to modernise public services are questions about how large a public sector we want and how we intend to pay for it. The Tories tried to have it both ways in the election campaign and played the tax card to win a fourth term. The resulting contradictions are now being resolved in a tight squeeze on many public spending programmes. Like Bill Clinton in America, Labour is now talking about active government but is also trying to have it both ways by not discussing the tax implications. John Smith is also in part a transitional figure.

The answer to the question of where the Major transition leads may still, of course, be in his hands. If he can secure approval of the Maastricht bill, which he probably can, and if he can put in place a plausible economic strategy, which is less certain, then he may be able to rebuild his shaken political position. But he has to "make the weather" if he has to look a convincing long-term leader.

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, sets an economic agenda for the government

What industry needs

Two weeks have passed since whirling Wednesday, and we are none the wiser about the future direction of the government's financial policy. The Chancellor has feinted one way with his reference to a British policy constructed in British interests, then the other with an attempt to renegotiate, in some unspecified way, the basis of the exchange-rate mechanism. Neither of these projected courses seems likely to lead to a sustainable new framework for decision-making.

Though some take pleasure in the prospect of a Chancellor, and a Treasury, twisting in the wind, I do not. Indeed it would be inappropriate for the Confederation of British Industry to do so, since we supported ERM entry and the government's attempts to sustain the parity. It would be honest to acknowledge, therefore, that many people are left almost as uncomfortable as the Chancellor by events in the currency markets, as a new way forward is sought.

Industry is united in the view that real interest rates should not return to the high levels of the past year. On the other hand, there is a deep fear of a resurgence of inflation. So it is urgent for the government to re-establish business confidence by setting out a clear way forward, and one designed, over time, to get us back on track towards the prize of European currency stability, which seemed to be in sight.

The starting point must be a firm anti-inflationary commitment. The foundation for that could be the so-called convergence criteria for economic and monetary union, to which the government is already theoretically committed.

In effect the government would accept that fixing the exchange rate, in the hope that it would create convergence, is for the time being

not a realistic option. But if the convergence criteria can be met outside the ERM, an eventual return to the mechanism — or its successor — might well be possible. And the criteria are sensible in their own right.

The first three of the five criteria are that a country's inflation rate should not be more than 1.5 percentage points above the average of the three best performing ERM nations, that the fiscal deficit should not (averaged over the cycle) exceed 3 per cent of GDP, and that the total stock of government debt should be no more than 60 per cent of GDP. So they provide a tough fiscal discipline — which the government now desperately needs — and an inflation target. In addition, long-term interest rates should not be more than two percentage

points above the average of the best inflation performers.

At present, the inflation target is within reach; the key is to keep it there. The public-sector borrowing requirement, on the other hand, is uncomfortably high, at close to 6% of GDP. That is common ground among economists of (almost) all persuasions. So those criteria are pointing now in a plausible policy direction.

The last criterion is that a currency must stay within the narrow ERM band for two years. That will not be possible in the near future. So another method of meeting the inflation objective must be found. Here we are thrown back on a "range of indicators", clearly including targets for the growth of narrow and broad money. But the prognosis for such a

regime, managed by the Treasury and subject to the vagaries of the political process, cannot be good.

So there is a strong case for the proposal for an independent Bank of England, subject to regular parliamentary scrutiny. The Bank's principal objective would be to meet the first of the convergence criteria, the inflation target, using interest rates and market intervention. The government would, of course, be responsible for taxing and spending.

It is difficult to forecast how the European monetary union project will develop in the next few years. Our partners may move quickly to establish a European central bank, or they may not. But the determination to create a zone of currency stability at the heart of Europe seems not to be in doubt.

The government should therefore construct its policy so as not to rule out re-entry to the ERM, or a move to full monetary union in due course, while recognising that neither is realistic at present.

The unmaking of the British

Bernard Levin asks if this country will soon manufacture nothing at all

Our dear sister, *The Sun*, recently devoted an entire page, with not a nippin in sight, to the question "Why isn't it made in Britain any more?" The "it" in the question was explained in considerable detail, comprising no fewer than nine manufactures which had once dominated their particular fields in Britain, but which are now made elsewhere: nor were the nine leading products mere gewgaws — on the contrary, they were central to Britain's output, as the list will make instantly clear: ships, aircraft, electrical goods, cars, motorbikes and bicycles, shoes, clothing and toys.

Take shipbuilding, once among the greatest of our products, products that the customers queued up to buy: today Britain, from a mostly silent Clyde, produces 3 per cent of the world's merchant shipping. Only 20 years ago, Britain imported 23 per cent of the cars in this country; the rest were British, and made in Britain. Today we import 55 per cent. Toys? Two-thirds come from the Far East. Shoes? In 1955, 91 per cent of the shoes sold in Britain were made here; now 70 per cent are imported.

And so on. There was a general in the American civil war (I forget his name) who was more or less illiterate but a very successful commander. When asked the secret of his success in battle, he replied, "I gits thar fustest with the mostest men". The question, then, is why don't British manufacturers nowadays git thar fustest, or indeed git thar at all?

Let me start at a tangent. As I was about to start this column, I read an item about the BBC. It revealed that Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, had ordered a spending cut: BBC Television has to save no less than £20 million over the next six



who cannot speak any intelligible language).

Before I get back on the rails, let us look in on the council chamber in Sheffield: to get the mostest fun, we should pick a time when the councillors, in solemn conclave met, are discussing the budget.

The sum they will be discussing is a matter of £10.4 million which has gone rather spectacularly astray. When the World Student Games (the very words point inexorably towards the bankruptcy courts) were held in Sheffield, the civic fathers had been assured that the event would pay for itself. Unfortunately, the gentleman who gave that assurance, the Director of Games Administration, seems to have gone on the principles that guided El-sha, only to find to his dismay that the ravens didn't want to know, a feeling, it is safe to say, that the ratepayers of Sheffield must heartily

sponsorship and increasing costs from councillors — members should have seen some danger, signals in the fact that they were unable to obtain from the Director of Games Administration any satisfactory information on the progress being made on sponsorship and merchandising negotiations.

The connection between the survey of Britain's dying industry, and the monumental incompetence demonstrated by the BBC and the Sheffield council finance committee must be obvious. The same creeping 'blight-in-time' lethargy both: losing millions because nobody thought fit to make sure that the people in charge of the millions were up to their job, and losing whole industries because that was the way it had always been done, with those in charge not noticing or caring that skinny little yellow men on the other side of the world, and overweight big men just across the Rhine, were doing it in a very different way and at half the price.

Unfair! Unfair! Unfair competition! That, in one form or another, has been the cry of those in Britain who could only make a worse mousetrap. It won't be long before nothing is made in Britain, except excuses. Listen to this: it comes from the disaster of British Aerospace, and the words are those of the chief executive, Richard Evans: "I saw this amorphous mass comprising the different aircraft. You couldn't segregate the strands of it. What I did, I saw, was that there was a bloody great higgly, orangey going on, but I couldn't find out where it was. There was no financial reporting system at all."

Very well, why was there no financial reporting system at all? And why couldn't he find out where the haemorrhaging was going on? And why couldn't he segregate the strands? Damnation take it, he was the boss. Whose arse hadn't been kicked? And who picked the man with the deficiently kicked arse, and who has belatedly kicked his, even supposing that it had been kicked in the first place?

No doubt there are people in Britain who think that we can do without making anything at all. But when the sky is dark from chickens coming home to roost, the only manufacturing enterprise remaining in Britain will be the output of broiler-fowl cages for the very chickens in question. *Quis kickidit ipsos arses?*



...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

Nobody likes a serial story that is dropped after the first couple of instalments. Over the summer, this column brought you news of the arrival of a swarm of bees above my office door. In a later column I recounted the tale of the kind professor who gave me a beehive. I left you (as, indeed, I left my bees) en route to Seville, with the swarm safely housed in my new hive and autumn closing in. An uncertain season lay ahead of me. So, before we close the book on the bee story, how goes it with the bees? Let me tell you. In summary, they emerged from a very rough fortnight to reveal themselves as Beugats. The message from my hive this autumn is: shut Maastricht!

My week in Seville, and their first in the new hive, was ill-chosen, for in England early August was wet and stormy. The bees were already exhausted from quitting their first hive, aborting their first swarm, and moving into empty and unprovisioned quarters. The fields were cold and the flowers were few and far between. Bees can be artificially fed, but I was headed for Spain.

I did try to leave them food but made a terrible mistake. My book said they like a syrup made with water and sugar. I had a pound of Demerara sugar in the cupboard and thought (brown sugar being more "natural" than white) that this would be a treat for them. The syrup was left (as

the book advised) in raised, upturned jam jars with small holes pricked in their lids. The bees wouldn't touch it. They drank not a drop. They preferred to starve. A few thousand of them did. I was greeted on return from Spain by the ghastly sight of thousands of little corpses outside their front door. In despair, I rang the author, academic and beekeeper John Carey for advice.

"They only like white sugar," he said. "Mix your syrup from that. And make sure it's Tate & Lyle, who use cane from the West Indies. The British Sugar Corporation's Silver Spoon is made from European beet. Bees don't like it."

I went off in search of Tate & Lyle sugar. There's something funny going on in the sugar business — the monopolies commission should look into it — because Tate & Lyle is getting harder and harder to find. Like the grey squirrel, *Silver Spoon* is driving its rival out of Britain. Those familiar with the common agricultural policy will know that the beet regime is a costly and sinister Brussels plan to wipe out our Commonwealth producers and cover France and Lincolnshire in horrible beet, planted for export subsidy.

My mother told me that bees are extraordinarily knowledgeable, but I could not believe that they knew about this, nor that they could taste the difference. I sampled teaspoons of each with my eyes shut and could not distinguish. So, to test John

Carey's thesis and discover whether English bees are indeed anti-Maastricht, I mixed two portions of syrup, one from Tate & Lyle and one from *Silver Spoon*, using identical methods and placing them in identical jars. These two offerings were left, like sacrifices before a deity, outside the hive.

I returned 24 hours later. The British Commonwealth jar had been completely emptied, the European jar was still half full. Dozens of bees scrambled in vain for traces of Tate & Lyle syrup, but, though there was plenty of *Silver Spoon* syrup left, only a handful of bees buzzed around that jar, looking bored and fed up.

Since then I've scoured Derbyshire for cane sugar. Finding some at the grocery in Winstler, I bought ten kilos in September, for the bees were building up their strength before calling it a day for the winter. This they have now done. And our column, too, must quit the insect scene and call it a day. This is the end of the bee story. Winter approaches. The box at the bottom of my garden is a hive of inactivity. My bees are bedding down for the torpor of what, to a bee, is an ice age, from which some will never awake. Their little lives are rounded with a sleep. The cloud-capped flowers, the gorgeous crocuses, are melted into air. Into thin air, and — like the waxy fabric of their brood-comb — shall dissolve, and leave not a rack behind.

Our revels, now, are ended.

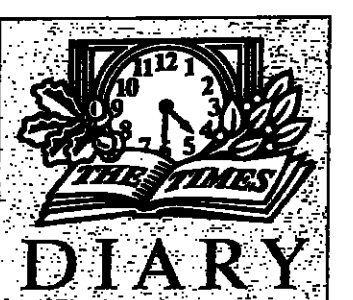
Standing up for Delors

AS THE British presidency of the EC stumbles towards the Edinburgh summit, the city's university has decided to confer an honorary doctorate on Jacques Delors to mark his "contribution to European unity". The ceremony will take place the day before the summit opens in December and will be a red rag to Maastricht critics, who may be in the middle of opposing the bill on the floor of the Commons at the time.

Their anger will be enhanced if the honour to Delors also draws the royal family into the Maastricht row. The Chancellor of Edinburgh University, who would normally be expected to preside at such a



ceremony, is Prince Philip. No final decision has been taken, but the university admits that it is unlikely that the Duke of Edinburgh, who recently conferred an equally controversial degree on Jacques Derrida at Cambridge, will be present. Rumour has long suggested that he is not brimming with Euro-fervour. "We don't want



to be run by bureaucrats," he recently told a private gathering of MPs and academics with some feeling.

The ceremony will probably be conducted by Sir David Smith, the principal and vice-chancellor, and an unashamed fan of Delors. Edinburgh University is one of the leading centres of academic support for European unity. The university has a Europa Institute and has in the past honoured Chancellor Kohl and Madame Mitterrand with honorary doctorates.

"Delors is a very distinguished person who has contributed a great deal to Europe," says Smith. "I have not received any adverse reaction. Who could possibly find the award controversial?" Smith is about to find out. William Cash, one of the leading Euro-sceptics on the Tory benches, said: "This is ridiculous. You would have thought in Edinburgh they would have remembered Rizzio. Long live Mary Queen of Scots." Just what could he mean?

Meanwhile, Euro-sceptics who are furious that the Tory conference agenda in Brighton does not allow them a vote on Maastricht are planning to force an impromptu ballot of their own. If the powers-that-be in a rare moment of balance allow an opponent of the government line to the rostrum,

expect a demand that anyone in the hall who favours pressing ahead with the Maastricht bill should immediately raise their hand. The triumphant sceptic will then turn round to the platform and demand that the leadership listens to the voice of the party as just expressed. It could be the most seaside fun since Edwina shook those handcuffs.

Passing the book

IAN MCEWAN'S chances of winning next week's Booker prize have not been helped by a piece of particularly maladroit PR by his publisher Jonathan Cape. Maggie van Reenan, head of corporate affairs at Cape, decided it would be fun to send each one of the 400 guests at Guildhall in London a copy of one of the novels before the big night. The idea was to foster partisanship and debate on each table at the award dinner. Virago (Michelle Roberts), Bloomsbury (Michael Ondaatje), Macmillan (Christopher Hope), Picador (Patrick McCabe) and Hamish Hamilton (Barry Unsworth) all agreed to supply the books. Only the publisher of MCEWAN'S *Black Dogs* objected.

"Bookers are rich, we're not. Let them buy them," said David Goodwin of Jonathan Cape. Strange behaviour given that Cape has won more Booker prizes — and as a result sold more books — than any other publisher. Despite this, MCEWAN remains the bookie's favourite at 6:4.

Whatever happened to student impetuosity? Scholars attending the London School of Journalism in Notting Hill Gate have been mesmerised by the jet-set lifestyle of one of their fellows. John Karatzafis, the 19-year-old son of the Greek media tycoon George Karatzafis, has taken to commu-

ing from Athens to London fortnightly for his tutorials, flying back to present a sports programme for his father's television station, Telety three nights a week.

Minimalist art

THE ARTS Council faces a fearsome conundrum. All of the keynote speakers for its conference later this month have either resigned or appeared unwilling to commit themselves to the event. First they lost David Mellor, who had accepted an invitation to debate the future of broadcasting and the arts in the Nineties. Then Bryan Gould, who was keen to air his views on the same subject, relinquished his interest. Now Jack Lang, France's urbane culture minister, who was to add a European perspective to the debate, is unable to confirm he will be there. "No final decision has been taken," says his office in Paris.

Neither can the new heritage secretary, Peter Brooke, be expected to replace Mellor: he is uncertain whether he can master his new brief in time. Gould, of course, does not even have a replacement until Labour can organise a vote to find his successor. "The conference will go ahead even if none of them arrives on the day," says an Arts Council spokesman. "We still have the likes of Melvyn Bragg."

While staff at the Inland Revenue building in Bootle, Merseyside, may cause the occasional groan and depression outside their own 19-storey walls, that is nothing compared with the headaches suffered by tax inspectors inside the building. The office is suffering from sick building syndrome and requires £40 million of our money to make the place fit to work in. Headaches, sore throats and sinus troubles are among the problems reported. It couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of people.



THE REAL OPPOSITION

An unexpected seachange in British politics will be witnessed at the Tory party conference in Brighton this week. Labour used to be the party that paraded its differences in public: the Tories sorted theirs out in smoke-filled rooms. But no longer. The last truly electric moment on the Labour conference floor was the walk-out by the late, lamented Eric Heffer in the 1985 conference in protest at Neil Kinnock's attack on Liverpool Militants. It was also, incidentally, the last time the leader delivered an *extempore* speech. Thereafter the Labour conference was decreed to be safe, sanitised and packaged into sound-bites. Last week's show of respectability at Blackpool marked the completion of this dull revolution.

The Tories, meanwhile, have discovered a taste for blood. They are the vampires of British politics. Balfour's famous remark that the advice of his valet was of more consequence than that of the Tory conference must seem to Mr Major like an echo of a quieter age. He goes to Brighton in need of the forgiveness of his party. The Tory representatives, battered from a terrible autumn, might be frugal in their mercy.

The current Conservative split on Europe would have persuaded the old style party manager to suppress all hints of dissent. Instead, this great constitutional question will be debated openly, itself a sign of a healthy party. Ministers, under little pressure from the official Opposition in the Commons, will be made to sweat. On the key issues of the EC and the economy, where the government is running scared, a party conference can paradoxically help rather than hinder. The nation's relationship with Brussels is a proper political issue, akin in its significance to the Corn Laws or Tariff Reform, which split the Tories but enabled the party to reform and recover. Strong opposition is vital for good government and if Labour deigns not to supply it, it must perform come from within the Conservative party. Lord Salisbury once remarked that

Mr Gladstone's existence was the greatest source of strength the Tories possessed. His own views were dependent on opposition. "I rank myself no higher in the scheme of things than a policeman — whose utility would disappear if there were no criminals." The Tory representatives will be treated to the sight of real opposition this week in Brighton: we can even expect a few scalp.

Of course the Tories are second to none in stage-managing the agenda and their formal conference proceedings. In some corners the old not-in-front-of-the-children ethos lives on. The very name "Maastricht" is taboo in the official agenda, but in its heart the party wholeheartedly believes in the power of debate. Whereas Labour suppressed a BBC *Newsnight* debate last week on its relationship with the unions, the Tories are allowing a televised shouting match on Europe to go ahead. In the late 1970s, while Central Office carried on in its own unadventurous way, Lady Thatcher transformed the party by propagating think-tanks, commissioning radical policy documents and encouraging bright young men to say the unsayable.

As a result the Tories are no longer the know-nothing party. The middle-aged ladies who used to bay for blood at the annual hanging debates, and flourished their hat pins at Monday Club meetings, have made way for (often frighteningly) well informed activists with policies that today seem out of the question but may well be taken for granted a decade from now.

This will be a bloody week for the party establishment and the Chancellor and a character-testing display of courage under fire for the Prime Minister. But the Conservative party itself is buzzing with ideas. Anyone interested in Britain in the next millennium will catch the pulse of the radical thought that will shape it on the Brighton seashore. Those who went to Blackpool saw only a carefully marketed version of the past.

HOW CIVIL WARS END

Since independence, Mozambique has known only war, famine, corruption and decay. The agreement in Rome between the government of Joaquim Chissano and the Renamo rebels now offers the exhausted country a hope of peace. Despite last-minute stalling by Alfonso Dhlakama, the rebel leader, both sides have committed themselves to a formal United Nations ceasefire, due to come into effect within two months, thus ending the last big conflict in Southern Africa which, over the past 16 years, has claimed at least a million victims.

Just as one war ends, however, another may be re-starting. Elections in Angola, the other former Portuguese colony reduced to ruin by civil war, have given the ruling MPLA party a decisive victory. Its opponents however seem unlikely to accept the result gracefully, and Jonas Savimbi, the powerful Unita leader, has spoken darkly of men and women ready to give up their lives "so that the country can be free." Both the United Nations, which has supervised the country's transition to democracy, and the United States have challenged him to prove his charges of electoral fraud. If he cannot, he is likely to return to the bush and the cycle of civil war could begin again.

The depressing prospect is underlined by experience elsewhere in Africa. Outside mediators broker truces between despotic governments and insurgents pillaging the country. Agreements are signed, a new era of democracy and human rights is promised and attempts are made to disarm the combatants. But the old mistrust remains, tribal hatreds prevail, and local warlords who have profited from the anarchy seize what they can of the spoils. Ethiopia, southern Sudan and Liberia are but recent examples.

The harsh fact is that whatever the resolutions of the United Nations and high-

principled intermediaries, starvation is the most effective peacemaker. Two years of desultory negotiations in Mozambique appeared to be going nowhere. Its villages emptied, its earth turned to dust by the great drought gripping southern Africa, the country is dying. Both sides have weapons enough to continue their campaigns indefinitely; they do not have the food or the manpower. In such desperation, the harsher demands of sheer survival conquer even the madness of war.

Most civil wars end not in truces but starvation and exhaustion. The Thirty Years war, the American civil war, the fighting in Lebanon and Biafra ended when one side or other could no longer sustain even the means to feed itself, let alone fight. The cold logic forces a primitive and awful conclusion: fighting in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Somalia will not stop until death and destruction threaten entire populations.

Efforts to feed starving Somalis and Sudanese are frustrated by gunmen ready to hijack supplies, or open fire on relief planes. Yet, in conscience, these efforts must go on. They must be accompanied by the kind of political pressure that brought together the Mozambique combatants in Rome and is attempting to bring together the Bosnian leaders in Geneva. Diplomatic missions and UN peace-makers must recognise two things however: first, that in the viciousness characterising much of the fighting in Africa and the Balkans, political leaders are often unable to control the warlords; and secondly, the gunmen sniping in the alleyways or Sarajevo or Beirut will only be beaten when General Drought and General Winter have mobilised their legions. Already they are winning in the Horn of Africa and in the south of the continent. The guns may finally fall silent in Mozambique only when its people fall in the parched fields.

A LEVEL TRACK

Horse-racing, "Sport of Kings", is the ancestral hobby of royalty and the rich in this country, a glittering part of national life where fortunes are spent in pursuit of the turf's finest prizes. The first known purse was itself a British achievement, made during the reign of Richard the Lionheart: 40 pounds in gold for a three-mile ride ridden by the king's knights. Thoroughbred events like Royal Ascot and the Queen Mother Champion Chase have preserved the glamour and passion of this sport — which is also the nation's sixth largest employer.

Yet the glories of the British track face a head-on challenge from abroad, a threat epitomised by the charm and elegance of yesterday's Ciga Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Racing overseas is cheap, entrance fees are low and prize money is high. Baden-Baden, Longchamp, Rome and Veliefendi in Turkey could soon replace Newmarket, Goodwood, Ascot and York as the capitals of racing excellence.

The rot has already set in: at Fontwell last Monday, two of racing's more colourful owners withdrew horses from races moments before the "off" in protest at low prize money. In one of the races affected by the boycott, the first prize was a mere £788, hardly enough to cover a month's training fees, and third prize was £86, which does not pay a jump jockey's riding fee.

Three days later at Newmarket, the Maktoum family announced its intention to reduce its 800-strong string of horses in Britain and chase the more substantial prizes which are to be won in France, Germany and the United States. If small owners cannot afford to keep a horse in training and the big battalions transfer their

racing interests abroad, jobs will be lost, revenue to the Exchequer will slip away and this labour-intensive sport will be in peril.

Britain offers meagre rewards to successful owners, then burdens them with the high VAT rates which cover bloodstock and training fees. When the Single Market comes into effect next year, the British tax rate of 17.5 per cent for bloodstock, compared to 2.7 per cent in Ireland and 5.5 per cent in France, will imperil the domestic breeding industry. Clearly, a standardisation of VAT rates is a desirable goal, but not one that can be easily or quickly achieved during such a fractious period in European relations. Level playing fields are hard to come by in money-spinning businesses like racing. So, in the short term, the British bookies have no choice but to make a more generous contribution to the business from which they profit, if they truly wish it to survive.

Prize money overseas is plentiful because much of the profit from betting is returned to the sport. In Britain, racing has to rely on a levy paid by off-course punters. Next year that will provide around £47 million for racing's coffers, compared to the £125 million profit made from betting by Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral, and governments' £320 million cut.

In a recession it is no good for a blue-blooded sport turning to the government for a bail-out. The bookmakers must find ways of wooing back the owners and that must mean more generous prize money. The magic of British racing is its noisy opulence, its celebration of risk, grandeur and excess. A precious slice of the nation's heritage is at risk and it is time for the blinkers to come off.

Europe as key to party divide

From Lord Cobbold

Sir, These days there is little difference between the three political parties on policy questions. All believe in a reasonably free market. The interests of labour and capital are no longer seen to be implacably opposed. The only fundamental issue on which there is a polarisation of views is Europe, but on this subject differences of opinion cut across party lines.

If labour versus capital has dominated European political debate over the past century, the key issue as we approach 2000 is how the high-cost economies of Europe are going to compete with the low-cost economies of Asia, particularly if we have to find extra cash to bail out the bankrupt legacy of communism on our eastern borders.

Are the Western European nations going to do it best by pooling their resources or acting alone? The political divide of the future is between Europeans and nationalists.

The obvious solution to the Maastricht problem is for the prime minister to put the treaty to the House of Commons as a free vote, tending his resignation at the same time. Those voting for and those against would then reconstitute themselves as new political parties. The winning side would elect a leader and form the new government.

The lobbying of members of Parliament in the run-up to the vote would give ample opportunity for public expression, obviating the need for a referendum. The two new parties would preserve the adversarial system beloved of Westminster and the Opposition would have something to oppose.

The new government, whether European or nationalist, could pursue its policies wholeheartedly and constructively without the "froth and bubble" and "half-hearted commitments" condemned in your leading article (October 1).

May I commend this proposal for debate at the forthcoming Tory party conference?

Yours faithfully,
COBOLD,
House of Lords,
October 4.

Hospitals' future

From Professor Donald Longmore

Sir, Leaks about the Tomlinson enquiry into the future of the capital's health services (report, September 11; letters, September 22, 28) do not portend a bold and imaginative plan to carry medicine forward to prevention of the commonest diseases, rather a pruning exercise merely to reduce the facilities in the capital.

Nearly half of those who read this will die of cancer, yet it appears that the recommendations include amalgamating two of the world's leading institutions dealing with these diseases, abandoning their new buildings and burying them in an inaccessible, unsatisfactory hospital.

The leaks do not suggest links with important scientific universities: there has been no mention of science parks to exploit discoveries to recreate a revenue-earning British medical industry.

Reducing facilities does not necessarily save money or improve the efficiency of what is left (*vide* British Rail) nor have all amalgamations to produce large conglomerates proved successful (*vide* the former British Leyland). To remove the medical centres of excellence will destroy the opportunity of a European centre for the prevention of the commonest diseases. It may hasten the brain drain and eliminate a potential source of precious foreign revenue.

Yours etc.,
DONALD LONGMORE
(Senior Consultant),
Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospitals,
Sydney Street, SW3,
October 2.

Fighter costs

From Mr Christopher Bate-Williams

Sir, The suggestion that the government is to fund and build the European Fighter Aircraft without Germany's participation (report, October 1) seems short-sighted. Though the aim to secure some 40,000 jobs is admirable, there appears to have been very little debate about alternative uses of the vast sums involved.

Could not the billions of pounds which would be required to realise this order be put to more creative use by development of the undoubtedly supreme technology embodied in the aircraft's design for more constructive purposes?

There are hundreds of thousands of designers, applications engineers, technologists, marketing experts and skilled and unskilled technicians, many unemployed. The spin-off from commercial development of EFA technology would, if imaginatively managed, sustain and create a far greater number of jobs than those presently being considered, as well as helping the nation's exports.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BATE-
WILLIAMS.

Churchside,
Berkeley Street,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
September 30.

Ways to supply needs of the poorest

From Mr R. C. Lacey

Sir, The thought-provoking article by Matthew Parris, "What shall we do about the poor?" (September 29), raises an issue conveniently ignored by all political parties for far too long. It is a disturbing and profoundly depressing problem that is getting worse. The so-called "underclass" are caught in a vicious circle of deprivation and squalor. So what can be done?

Surely the starting point must be education. Teachers at inner-city schools already bear a tremendous burden trying to educate children who, in many cases, do not want to be educated. Their parents show no interest either.

The teachers must try to break through this barrier of ignorance and provide the motivation for self-improvement that cannot be found at home. To do this they need more help. Rather than throw more money at the social services perhaps one answer is to channel more funds to the inner-city schools to enable them to employ special teachers for these "special" children.

The problem is not unique to the inner cities, but it would at least be a start.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. LACEY,
Surrey Farmhouse,
Farnhurst,
Haslemere, Surrey,
September 29.

From Mr Paul Wilson

Sir, While social support and compassion are relatively easy to find in communities all over the country, the essential, underpinning financial resources are far more difficult to come by. They are provided by diverse sources which are themselves separated into watertight bureaucratic compartments — Department of Social Security, Home Office, Department of the Environment, Department of Health.

What is urgently required is a single funding authority with its own budget able to deploy government funds imaginatively and flexibly in response to the modest needs of the poorest. The often amazing resources of good will and assistance available in the community could thus be more effectively mobilised, without incurring high per capita expenditure.

Imagination, responsiveness and a refusal to write people off, even if they do not fit into tidy categories and administrative convenience, are all that is needed.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WILSON (Chief Executive),
Carr-Gomm Society
(Charitable housing association),
Telegraph Hill Centre,
Kilto Road, SE14,
October 1.

From the Reverend John Kennedy

Sir, Matthew Parris's complacency on poverty is common among those whose views were formed by a post-

war Britain in which the government was expected to fall if unemployment rose above half a million and at a time when huge efforts were being made to provide the less well-off with affordable housing for rent. That process has now been halted.

More money is now spent on an open-ended tax subsidy for house purchase than is spent on building houses for rent. It is not true, as Mr Parris suggests, that a vast number of pseudo-poor people ride high on the welfare hog. Middle-class "fiscal welfare" continues. The post-war systems of education and health, meant to repair the inequalities in society, actually benefit the better off.

A large minority of British people has suffered a rapid decline in the availability of unskilled employment, without a countervailing development of skill training. It has seen a fall in the quantity of affordable housing for rent, and endures the awful quality of much of it. It has seen social expenditure rocket, without enjoying its benefits.

Unsurprisingly, a small minority within this group has cracked under the strain. It is their children whom Mr Parris encounters on the road to Liverpool. The so-called "underclass" is just the most entertaining fragment of a vastly greater group of people who have been largely excluded from our society.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KENNEDY (Secretary,
Political, Social and
Economic Policy),
Division of Social Responsibility,
The Methodist Church,
1 Central Buildings,
Westminster, SW1,
October 1.

From Sir Henry Marking

Sir, Some years ago when I was chairman of the British Tourist Authority I had the pleasure and satisfaction of working with Dame Shirley Porter, then leader of Westminster City Council, on the campaign to clean up London (letter, September 29). Much was achieved and the benefits of that campaign remain.

But Matthew Parris's article on the opposite page on the poor of our cities highlights a far greater problem for "cleaning up" London. And the problem of those who live on the streets is not confined to London. It is all too apparent in other large towns, both in this country and overseas.

Dame Shirley and I never found a satisfactory solution to this aspect of the London clean-up campaign, but so long as the underclass and the inadequate are left with no acceptable alternative to squalid life on the street, London in particular will always fall far short of being a place which we can show off with pride to our overseas visitors.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY MARKING,
Strathall Hall,
Nr Saffron Walden,
Essex,
September 29.

Overseas aid cuts

From the Director of Oxfam and others

Sir, Your report of September 28, "Agencies fear cut in aid", draws attention to the £274 million cut in the overseas aid budget proposed by the Treasury. This cut would have a crippling impact on some of the world's poorest countries and people.

With 40 million lives at risk in sub-Saharan Africa, there could not be a worse time to diminish Britain's ability to respond to urgent humanitarian and development needs. Our experience underlines the importance of long-term assistance in helping to make the poor less vulnerable to disasters.

Any cuts in development aid would also jeopardise the positive moves towards democracy and economic reform being undertaken in much of the developing world, which the British government has taken a lead in encouraging.

Only last June, at the Rio Earth summit, it committed itself to maintaining and increasing its overseas aid budget towards the agreed UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. A reversal of this clear commitment would seriously damage Britain's international standing.

Moreover, it is clear to us from the generous response to our appeals that the British public would not be in favour of such a short-sighted policy. The clear message of our supporters is that the government should be investing in a sustainable future for the world's poorest people by increasing aid.

Yours etc.,
DAVID BRYER
(Oxfam United Kingdom & Ireland),
NICHOLAS HINTON
(Save the Children Fund),
PAUL TYLER (Christian Aid),
MARTIN GRIFFITHS (Action Aid),
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI (Cafod),
Oxfam,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,
October 2.

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JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI (Cafod),
Oxfam,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,
October 2.

From Mr James Pretty

Sir, Ministers must know that overseas aid is not an act of generosity but a partial restoration of what we take from developing countries through unfair terms of trade, as well as in debt repayments.

It would be scandalous to cut it and deprive the world's poor to recoup what we have paid out to speculators. Self-respect seems to be another casualty of the crisis.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PRETTY,
24 Merton Road,
Watton, Thetford, Norfolk,
September 27.

Jewish land

From Mr Hyam Maccoy

Sir, Rabbi Cohn-Sherbok ("Make this a new year of peace and hope in Israel", September 28) writes that the Jews have "glorified" the Israeli conquest of Canaan, and based on this their claim to eternal possession of the land — an immoral claim that has "subtly shaped the Jewish psyche" resulting in the "sin of... territorial possessiveness". This thesis is mistaken.

The authoritative Jewish sources do not base the Jewish claim on conquest, but on the peaceful return to the land led by Ezra in the 6th century BC. The Talmud declares that what was gained by conquest was lost by conquest; but the peaceful return by permission of the Persian Empire gave a permanent right of possession.

Only those areas occupied in the time of Ezra are "sanctified for ever".

while other areas conquered previously by Joshua have lost their sanctity and do not form part of the Jewish land (see Babylonian Talmud, Arakhin 32b, codified by Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Terumot, 1:5).

Thus the Jews are one of the few nations in the world whose claim to their land is based not on conquest but on international consent. The Jewish religion, contrary to Rabbi Cohn-Sherbok's contention, has never recognised the conquest as conferring a permanent right.

When the United Nations conferred nationhood on the Jews in 1947, they were confirming a situation that had existed for 2,500 years.

Yours faithfully,
HYAM MACCOY
(Librarian),
Leo Baeck College,
Sternberg Centre for Judaism,
80 East End Road, N3,
September 30.

Maps of London's 'underworld'

From the Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey

Sir, Simply by the fact that it exists, is comprehensive and of high quality, Ordnance Survey mapping of the ground surface forms the "template" to which other organisations fit their own information. Sir Alan Muir Wood (letter, September 26) has assured Gillian Tindall ("The flood beneath the capital's feet", *Life & Times*, September 15) that there is already in place a comprehensive equivalent to Ordnance Survey for London's "underworld". In essence, this sets out to describe the geology and the man-made structures underlying the OS map.

I suspect that the reality of the situation is somewhat more complicated. As Sir Alan points out, the ownership of such information already exists in spread across many bodies: some of these regard their own holdings as of significant commercial value and hence to be shielded from competitors.

The logic of having a single, consistent and widely used description of both the surface and the underworld is obvious. To achieve that, however, requires that we can make it attractive either to information-owners to collaborate or to enforce information exchange by legislation. The Computerised Street and Road Works Register now being devised by the Department of Transport will enforce some sharing of information about the near-ground subsurface layers, hopefully positioned in relation to the above-ground topography shown on OS maps.

More generally, however, OS stands ready to play a role in bringing together the different players who hold information on the physical environment. Our aim is to achieve added value for all by bringing together information from different sources and to help to make the results generally available at a standard, agreed cost.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID RHIND,
Director General and
Chief Executive,
Ordnance Survey,
Romsey Road, Maybush,
Southampton, Hampshire,
September 29.

Opera House report

From the Secretary General of the Arts Council

Sir, In your leading article, "Operatic fantasy" (October 2), in which you criticise the Royal Opera House for bad management, you take a side-swipe at the Arts Council. You suggest that it is "astonishing" that we allowed the condition that the company should break even financially to lapse.

Well it would have been, if we had. In fact we explicitly insist on balanced budgets for all our clients. With the very public exception of 1990-1 the Royal Opera House has budgeted for break-even or better. In the event, in five of the last seven years it has incurred substantial operating deficits.

Our appraisal report which Lady Warnock headed clearly states that in future the Royal Opera House must keep its budgetary promises; and makes a number of recommendations which will enable it to do so.

The Arts Council expects the board and management of the Royal Opera House to take all necessary steps to put its finances into good order and is pleased by its positive response to Lady Warnock's proposals.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY EVERITT,

Secretary General,

Arts Council,

14 Great Peter Street, SW1,

October 2.

Criminal Justice Act

From Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC

Sir, The point which should perhaps be made most strongly about the new Criminal Justice Act (letters, October 1, 3) is that a government which campaigned as the party of law and order so stridently has now made it virtually impossible for the judges to imprison the persistent and professional small-time burglar and thief.

Yours sincerely,

JONATHAN GOLDBERG,

5 King's Bench Walk,

Temple, E.C.4.

October 3.

Brotherly orders

From Simon Aplin

Sir, I am afraid Mr Christopher Boulter (letter, September 29) is very behind the times in his views of the naming of different-aged brothers in prep schools. At my prep school the current system is "king size", "regular" and "fun size".

Yours faithfully,

SIMON APLIN (aged 12),

26 Prestbury Road,

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,

September 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Her Royal Highness was received at the Airport by Sir Donald

tain Edward Musto, R-M, were in attendance.

Watching the birdie: a family of bronze birds bound for a sale of architectural furnishings catches the eye of a passer-by. The Christie's auction in London next week includes statuary from long demolished country houses

The R101 airship crashed near Beauvais, France, killing 47, 1930.

The Jarrow unemployed began their march to London, 1936.

The Director-General of the Ordnance Survey and Mrs Rhind, Professor and Mrs R Hudson, Professor and Mrs J Dewdney, Professor and Mrs H Borden-Jones and the President of the Durham University Geographical Society.

ATS Dinner Club
Mrs A. Juby presided at a luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club held on Saturday at Wellington Barracks.

Rosemary Sutcliffe
A public memorial service for Rosemary Sutcliffe, CBE, FRSL, will take place on November 3, at 11.30am, at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London, W1.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit the British Footwear Fair at the NEC, Birmingham, at 11.45; will visit MEM Company, Redding's Lane, Tyseley, at 10.30; and will visit J.E. Heath at Burslem, Stoke on Trent, at 3.10.

Dr J.L. Brown
and **Miss R.A. Harries**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Laird, son of Dr and Mrs George Brown, of Barnes, London, SW13, and Ruth Harries, daughter of Mrs John Harries, of Linden Village, Buckingham and the late Mr John Barrett Harries.

Mr L.R.S. Dobbs
and **Miss N. Peneupaga**
The engagement is announced between Leo, son of Mr and Mrs B. Dobbs, of 39 Cambridge Street, London, SW1V 4PR, and Nongmu, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Peneupaga, of Bangkok.

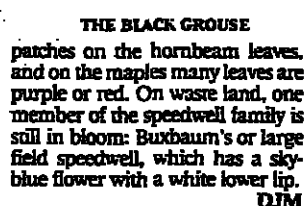
Mr C.C.M. Glasse
and **Miss K.J. Stevenson**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs John Glasse, of Milton Bryan, Bedfordshire, and the late Mrs Margaret Glasse, and Karen, eldest daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Stevenson, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

MR. RICK NEWMAN and Miss Lillian C. Ruck, both of the same place on Saturday at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Stokenham, Devon, of Mr. Richard Newman, younger son of the late Sir Ralph Newman and of the Hon Lady Newman, of Dartmouth, Devon, and Miss Ruck, daughter of the late Mr. Gordon Ruck and of the late Mrs. Ruck, of Dartmouth. The Rev. T. Jenkins Jones officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her mother, was attended by William and Rachael Thomas, of the same place. The bridesmaids, Katrina Bushnell, Frederick Packe, Miss Crosby, Frances Huntley-Robertson, Georgina Hazell and Michael Robinson. Mr. David Robinson was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.J. Whitmore
and Miss S.M. Corcoran
The marriage took place at St
Peter's Church, Hursborne
Tarrant, Hampshire, on October
3, 1992, of Mr David Whitmore,
younger son of Mr and Mrs John
Whitmore, to Miss Sibylla Cor-
coran, eldest daughter of Mr
Desmond Corcoran and of Mrs
Judith Keppel. The Rev Michael
Hardy officiated, assisted by
Father John Hamilton Dalrymple.
The bride, who was given away
by her father, was attended by
Gabriella and Francis Berillon,
Clare and Henry Cartwright,
and by Keppel and Elizabeth
Levinson. Mr Simon Rivers,
Carnarvon and James Penbrooke
were best men. A reception was held at
Netherdon House and the honey-
moon is being spent abroad.

er, made lugubrious by
with Caliban and
Stephano in Prospero's
his wis are sensed in
flashes of perceptive
ne calling.

Montefiore



Understanding the true value of a common identity within Europe

On what grounds is it preferable for such a federation to grow in depth so that there is a degree of political union between its members, rather than to grow in size so as to bring benefits to other nations within the community? Must a federation of states have a common ethos.

and religious, and, with its strong moral and religious influence, was instrumental in the defeat of Hitler. It was earlier in the century it had used its military might to take over the Philippines and even though it later gave it self-rule; and some would say that its dealings with South America owe more to self-interest than to the welfare of South American nations.

How could a federal Europe use its economic clout? In order to increase its own prosperity, we are told. But that would not necessarily help the global economy as the Common Agricultural Policy of our present European Community demonstrates.

Sovereignty presupposes absolute and independent, autonomous authority.

Jesus commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. We have to have self-esteem before we can help others. This applies to nations as well as individuals. So patriotism is a virtue. But nationalism can be evil, as we see in what was Yugoslavia. Big nations like the USA are patriotic, but they can sometimes become jingoistic. So could a large United States of Europe. Its well-being requires common values, worthy aims and goals, and proper restraints.

The author was formerly Bishop of Birmingham and is a columnist for the

Answers from page 14
JOHN HUME
 (b) In *Henry VI, Part 2*, a sly priest suborned by Beaufort and Suffolk (by the promise of a knighthood) to bring Eleanor fake witches who will show her "a spirit rais'd from depth of underground/That shall make answers to such questions/As by your Grace shall be propounded him".

ELBOW
(a) *Measure for Measure*, a dim-witted constable who spends his time in the play arresting Mistress Overdone and Pompey every time they open a new brothel. In speech he is a poor relation of the bawdy *Dogberry* in *Much Ado*, using pompous malapropisms that utterly confuse what he is trying to say.

CASCA
(a) The first of the conspirators to be recruited, and the first to stab J. Caesar ("Speak, hands for me!") He is a blunt, dirty witty man, and Cassius makes use of his blunt simplicity to trap him into the conspiracy; even so, Cassius finds a vulnerability in his argument. After the murder he vanishes from the play.

TRINCULO
(a) *The Tempest*, Alonso's jester, made laughable by his efforts to please the king and his constant flattery. He spends his time with Caliban and Stephano, plotting to usurp Stephano's throne from Prospero. For most of the time his words are soaked in sycophancy, but he has occasional flashes of perceptive insight and is used by Prospero to remind us of his true calling.

OBITUARIES

DENNY HULME

Denis "Denny" Hulme, Formula One world motor racing champion in 1967, died of a heart attack during the Bathurst 1000 saloon car endurance race in Australia yesterday, aged 55. He was born in Nelson, New Zealand, on June 18, 1936.

THERE could scarcely be a more vivid contrast than that between today's publicity conscious and wealth-seeking motor racing champions and Denny Hulme, who won the 1967 Formula One World Championship in a Brabham-Repco, retiring to his native New Zealand seven years later.

Throughout his long career, which began in 1955 at the wheel of an MG TF and included eight grand prix victories between 1967 and 1974, two with Brabham and the remainder with McLaren, he was motivated solely by his love of racing. Wealth was of little concern to him and he eschewed the publicity which came his way at the height of his fame, although in recent years he seemed to take quiet enjoyment at being celebrated as something of a "golden oldie" on his occasional return visits to Europe.

The most recent of these was last May, when he revisited Monaco on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his first grand prix victory there, but more important to him was his journey to Goodwood a few days later for the unveiling of a memorial stone to his former team-mate and close friend, Bruce McLaren, who had been killed at the circuit in 1970 while testing one of the Can-Am sports cars.

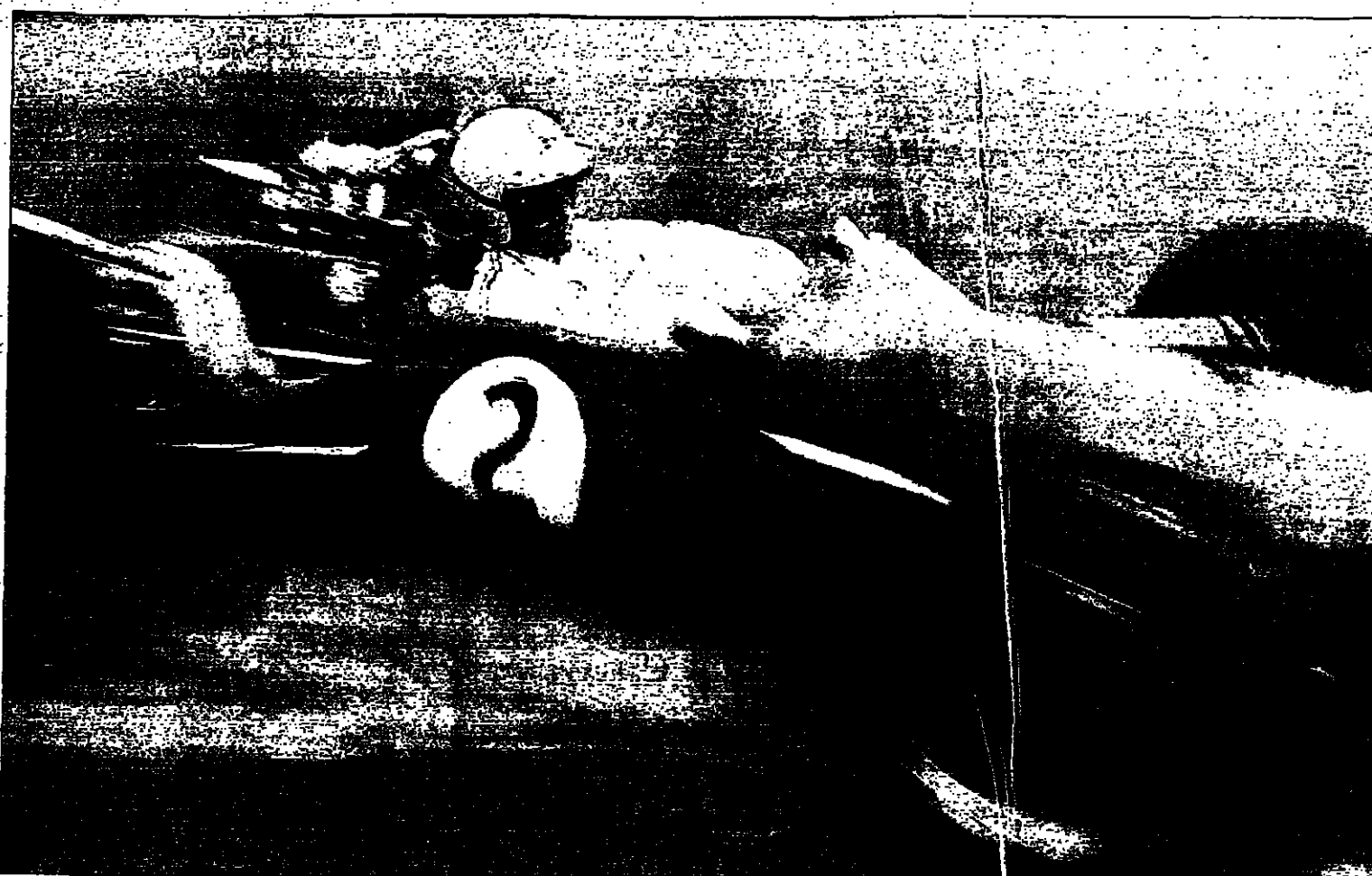
During the 1960s, McLaren and Hulme had completely dominated the North American race series, where they were known affectionately as the Bruce and Denny show.

It was on McLaren's death that the calibre of Hulme was to be seen in painful vividness. Weeks earlier, his hands had become so badly burned in an alcohol fire at Indianapolis that he could scarcely touch a steering wheel for fear of exacerbating his wounds. Yet soon he was back in a McLaren cockpit, racing in agony and lengthening his recovery in a selfless effort to help restore the morale of his shattered team.

Hulme dismissed it all as "just a job that had to be done", much as his father, the late Clive Hulme, would do when questioned on how he won the Victoria Cross in Crete. Denny Hulme's formidable appearance earned him the nickname The Bear, which he rather enjoyed and at times pretended to live up to, usually with the help of a minimum of well-selected words.

In reality, he was a shy and modest man, and when he was not behind the wheel of a racing car, or in recent times even a racing truck, he was at his most content tending the restoration and operation of his collection of stationary steam engines.

Hulme was the only son of a haulage contractor. Soon after his birth, the family moved to a small town called Te Puke in the Bay of Plenty province, North Island. Never



Denny Hulme in a Formula One Brabham Repco at Silverstone in 1967

much of a scholar, he was fond of engineering and was a natural mechanic. He learned to drive at the age of eight, obtained his private driving licence at 15 and a heavy traffic licence at 18.

On leaving school, he worked in a local garage repairing cars, tractors and even washing machines before taking over the maintenance of his father's transport fleet.

Hulme made his motor sport debut in 1955 in a hill-climb, driving a new MG TF, and graduated through a series of sprints and club meetings to his first major victory at Ardmore in December 1957. From that moment he was determined to become a professional driver.

After an important victory in a Cooper Climax at the Vic Hudson Memorial Trophy at Levin early in 1960, Hulme and his compatriot George Lawton were jointly chosen by the New Zealand International Grand Prix Association to be sponsored for a season of European racing. Their promising progress was tragically cut short when Lawton was killed at Roskilde, Denmark, in September. Hulme returned home for the 1960-1 season and won the New Zealand drivers' championship in a Yeoman Credit Cooper.

He came back to Europe in 1961 and started his long struggle for recognition in the tough Formula Junior category. In 1962 he went to work for Jack Brabham (world champion driver in 1959, 1960 and 1966) as a racing mechanic and there is no doubt that Brabham must

take much of the credit for advising and moulding Hulme into world championship material. Hulme was a driver who lived, breathed and dreamed about racing cars and before long he was not only driving a works Formula Junior Brabham, but was rated one of the best and most ruthless drivers in Europe.

Brabham was pleased with his progress and entrusted him with a drive in the 1964 Tasman series, where he won at Pukekohe and had several other meritorious drives. With the advent of the new Formula Two category in 1964 (1000cc cars), Hulme really got into his stride and carried the Brabham marque to victory at Clermont-Ferrand and finished runner-up to Brabham himself in the French F2 championship.

Hulme made his Formula One debut in 1965 and drove a works-entered Brabham in six championship events, finishing fourth in the French and fifth in the Dutch grand prix. He was also unbeaten in the Group 7 2-litre class with a Brabham BT8 and won the Tourist Trophy for the first time that year. He repeated this success in 1966.

It was in 1966 that Hulme really came to the fore with some electrifying successes with Sid Taylor's Lola T70: a fourth place in the drivers' world championship, second at Le Mans in the 24-hour race in a Ford, and many brilliant supporting roles to Brabham in the all-conquering Formula Two Brabham-Honda cars. He won his first grand prix victory

at Monaco in May 1967, driving the 3-litre Brabham Repco. This was the start of an excellent year. He was second to Brabham in the French Grand Prix, second to Clark in the British event but won the German race on the formidable Nurburgring circuit.

He took a second in the Canadian GP and a third in the United States race at Watkins Glen. The world championship was not decided until the Mexican GP in October. Jim Clark won the race, Brabham came second and Hulme, needing only to get a place in the first five, finished third. He thus beat into second place his patron and team-mate Brabham, the 1966 champion, by 51 points to 48.

The following year Hulme joined the Bruce McLaren team at Colbrook, Buckinghamshire, and drove McLaren F1 and Can-Am cars. He stayed with the team for five seasons. He was placed third in world championship, winning the Italian and Canadian GPs and coming second in the Spanish GP. He also won the non-championship F1 Daily Express Trophy at Silverstone. He was Can-Am champion for the first time, winning the Road American at Elkhart Lake, the Klondike Trail 200 at Edmonton and the Stardust GP, Las Vegas.

In 1969 he was placed sixth in the drivers' championship, winning the Mexican GP.

After McLaren's death in 1970, he took over as leader of the team and was fourth in world championship



with a second place in the South African GP, third in the British, German and Mexican GPs and fourth in the Monaco, French and Italian GPs.

He was also Can-Am champion for a second time. In 1971 Hulme won at Mosport Park, Edmonton and Riverstone, to become runner-up in the Can-Am series.

He is survived by his wife Greta, whom he married in 1963, and their daughter Adele. Their son Martin was killed in a boating accident a few years ago.

CARDINAL JACQUES MARTIN

Cardinal Jacques Martin, former Prefect of the Apostolic Household at the Vatican, died on September 27 in Rome aged 84. He was born on August 26, 1908, at Amiens, France.

CARDINAL Jacques Martin worked in the Roman curia under six popes, representing the French Resistance in the Vatican during the second world war and culminating his career as Prefect of the Apostolic Household.

He was known as the archetype of a churchman, "a humble and discreet person", who introduced Roman Catholic pontiffs to such figures as John Kennedy, Charles de Gaulle, Andrei Gromyko, the former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir, and the Queen.

Born at Amiens, in the Somme department of France, into a family originally from the Touraine region in the wine-growing centre of the country, he was the son of a colonel and was a reserve officer in the army in the 1930s. He was ordained in 1934 after attending the French seminary in Rome and went on to the Gregoriana University, taking doctorates in theology and canon law.

He remained in Rome after appointment to the Academy of Ecclesiastical Noblemen, as the Vatican diplomatic college was then known, and entered the French section of the Vatican Secretariat of State, the foreign ministry of the Holy See.

Although a humble and self-effacing man, Mgr Martin was one of the few senior churchmen in the Vatican to become a close confidant of six successive popes. He rarely spoke about his involvement during the second world war, but his influence was crucial in relations between the church, the Resistance and government figures in the immediate postwar era in France.

His initial task after his appointment to the secretariat was to write the French diplomatic telegrams and other sensitive correspondence of the pope and his secretary of state. At the outbreak of war between France and Germany he helped to organize the shelter in the Vatican of Vladimir D'Osmont, the French ambassador to the Holy See appointed by the French prime minister Paul Reynaud, after the Germans put pressure on Mussolini to have the envoy leave Rome with other French diplomats.

When Fascist Italy declared war on France, French clergy working in the Vatican had to return home. Monsignor Martin, as he was then, was the only Frenchman allowed to remain in the Vatican because of his important work for the secretary of state. The authorities in Paris, before the

advent of Pétain's collaborationist government, exempted him from the call-up of reservists on the same grounds.

Mgr Martin was a profound patriot and used his unique position to open up communications between the Resistance and the Vatican. He was influential in drafting numerous papal documents and would never countenance criticism of Pius XII.

Immediately after the war, Mgr Martin arranged a visit by de Gaulle to the Vatican. After the war he remained at the head of the French section of the secretariat under Pius XII, John XXIII (1958-1963) and Paul VI (1963-1978). He built up a team of brilliant Francophone prelates in what became known as the "section Martin".

Mgr Martin had kept a detailed daily diary of his war years. He declined for years to write his memoirs, but at the suggestion of present Pope he changed his mind and they were ready for publication just before he died.

In 1964 he was appointed to organise the voyage to the Holy Land of Paul VI. On their arrival, the Pope told him that he was promoting him to archbishop of the titular diocese of Nablouse. He was consecrated on February 11, 1964, and remained a senior adviser to the Secretary of State. In 1969 Paul VI named him Prefect of the Apostolic Household, charged principally with organising papal audiences for foreign dignitaries. John Paul II, elected in 1978, retained Archbishop Martin in this post until December 1986.

In 1988 the Pope made him, at the age of 79, a cardinal and for two months he was part of the College of Cardinals eligible to elect a pontiff. Under canon law cardinals must leave the electoral college at the age of 80.

Archbishop Martin shared with the Polish Pope his love of sporting activities and was a keen walker and swimmer. A few weeks before his death he went bathing at the "beach of cardinals", used by prelates from the curia, a few miles north of Rome. He ended his life in a small flat in the apostolic palace.



WILLIAM BARRETT

William Barrett, American philosopher and chronicler of the postwar generation of New York intellectuals, died of cancer in Tarrytown, New York, on September 8, aged 78. He was born in New York City on December 30, 1913.

UNLIKE many philosophers, William Barrett possessed the priceless gift of clarity in his writing. It was through his lucid prose, notably in his first book, *Irrational Man*, published in 1958, that he was able to bring the European theory of existentialism to a wide audience in the United States.

Growing up in the years of the depression, Barrett embraced Marxism while a student at City College in Manhattan. "Socialism," he wrote later, "seemed the simple and inevitable answer. It

was taken as a matter of course that any young man of reasonable intelligence and goodwill would be a Marxist... It was our Marxist decade; yet the irony was that its experience of Marxism was something remote and distant - either intellectually in the intricacies of a theory that didn't mesh with our actual life, or romantically remote in the deeds of socialist heroes in far-off lands."

Barrett progressed to Columbia University, where he completed his dissertation on Aristotle and was awarded his PhD in 1938 at the age of 25. He took up teaching positions at the Illinois University and then at Brown University on Long Island, but an event had already occurred which would have a profound effect on his life.

In the winter of 1937 he was introduced by his close friend, the poet Delmore Schwartz, to William Phillips

and Philip Rahv, editors of the *Partisan Review*, a radical left-wing journal that promoted avant-garde culture.

Barrett was entranced. "They belonged to the great world outside the walls of the academy where I was still struggling for a degree," he later wrote. "There was the world of bohemia and the arts, of political movements and counter-movements, bold and sweeping ideologies. They were therefore beings invested in my eyes with a strange and mysterious glamour."

The glamour had to wait. Barrett was inducted into the United States forces in 1942 and served for a while with the Office of Strategic Services in Italy, where he helped to find and to relocate distinguished Italians who were trapped in German-held territory.

Demobilised in 1945, he quickly renewed contact with Delmore Schwartz and was hired as an associate editor of

Partisan Review. Competent in Italian, French and German, and able to transmute densely abstract European philosophy into simple English, Barrett began to use the magazine to spread the gospel of existentialism.

Although still a socialist, he had begun to take a strong stand against the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union, labelling it as a "criminal dictatorship". He attacked the American liberal establishment for its blindness to the totalitarian nature of the Soviet system.

The *Partisan Review* ultimately became riven with internal feuds and Barrett left it in 1952 to return to academia, joining the faculty of New York University. The experience, he said, had prompted him to "relate philosophy to the real affairs of men in history".

But his fascination with existentialism continued. In

Irrational Man, in which he explored the thinking of Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre, he described the movement as a protest against the pervasive rationalism and abstractness of the modern age. The book was enthusiastically received by critics and has become a classic introductory text.

The social turmoil of the 1960s turned Barrett away from radicalism to a mixture of liberal and conservative ideas that became known as neo-conservatism. He deplored the youth movement for its debasement of cultural standards and its perceived threat to stable democratic institutions. Barrett began to believe that the classless society was "a Utopian illusion" and went so far as to vote for Ronald Reagan in 1980, although maintaining that he was still a liberal at heart.

A string of books ensued,

culminating with *The Truants: Adventures Among the Intellectuals*, published in 1982, which recounted Barrett's friendships and associations with such writers as Rahv, Schwartz, Mary McCarthy, Dwight Macdonald and Hannah Arendt. A *New York Times* reviewer called the book "a penetrating analysis of the intellectual life of its period, and essential reading for anyone attempting to understand the art and culture and politics of the present age".

Barrett retired from teaching at New York University in the late 1970s, but remained active as a senior fellow at the National Humanities Centre and as a visiting professor at Pace University in New York City. His last book, *Death of the Soul: From Descartes to the Computer*, was published in 1986.

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Fulbright awards

The Fulbright Commission in London has announced awards to the following US graduate students to study in Britain in 1992/93. The students are drawn from all parts of the US and have been selected from over 400 applicants for the Fulbright Award under the Fulbright Program of educational visits and exchanges with Britain.

M Braun (Washington Univ) Slide School of Art, sculpture; S Buckling (SUNY Empire State College) Trinity College, Cambridge; J Burgess (Kansas State Univ) Leeds Univ, textile science; P Chang (Univ of Southern California) tuition with William Pleeth and Royal College of Music; C Decker (Yale Univ) Trinity College, Cambridge; English literature; R Follett (Washington Univ) Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London; Univ. history; D Goss (Stevens Institute of Technology) Trinity College, Cambridge; J Hambrick (Eastman School of Music) Royal Academy of Music, Bath; P Harger (Johns Hopkins Univ) Wellcome/CRC Institute Cambridge, developmental biology; B Johnson (College of William and Mary,

Virginia) Lincoln College, Oxford, forestry; T Knight (Washington and Lee Univ) University College, Oxford; history; A Lopez (Univ of Pennsylvania) Somerville College, Oxford; law; M Miller (Wharton College) Darwin College, Cambridge; developmental economics; T Oatley (Emory Univ) Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London; politics.

J O'Donnell (New York Univ) British Library, musicology; D Page (Brandeis Univ) British Library; music history; J Preven (Harvard Univ) Trinity Coll Camb, English lit; M Robinson (Univ of Calif Irvine) London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, acting; D Rout (Ohio State Univ) Queens College, Cambridge; history; R Singh (Princeton Univ) Christ Church, Oxford; European politics; K Smith (Inst of Fine Arts, NY) Univ Coll London, medieval English art; K Stack (Brown Univ) New College, Oxford; philosophy; H Thaggett (New York Univ) King's College London, international law; C Waters (Harvard Univ) King's College London, English literature; B Why (Yale Univ) Emmanuel College, Cambridge, English literature.

Turner watercolour may fetch £500,000

By JOHN SHAW

A TINY but highly atmospheric view of Venice by Turner could become the artist's first watercolour to sell for £500,000 at auction when it appears at Sotheby's in London on November 18.

"The Grand Canal with Santa Maria della Salute", (8 1/2" x 12 1/2"), set an auction record for English watercolours when it made £440,000 at Phillips in London in April 1988.

Turner's watercolours of Venice are among his most beautiful and sought-after works. Virtually all of them belong to the Turner Bequest, but a small group was entrusted to Thomas Griffiths, his agent. This was the last to remain with Griffiths's descendants. Although the present vendor has not been named,

he is known to be Hermann Schnabel, a German industrialist and Turner enthusiast. He is selling five works by the artist at the auction which together could make £1.3 million.

The Grand Canal study shows the water at sunset with the cupolas of the church silhouetted against the darkening clouds of an approaching storm. It was probably painted from his hotel steps during his last visit to the city in 1840. Schnabel's other pictures include "Whitehaven, Cumberland", a scene of fishermen salvaging cargo from a wreck.

A further three watercolours by the artist are included in the sale, making what is thought to be the largest number of Turners to appear in one sale.

Latest wills

Professor Henry Dickinson Westlake, of Waresley, Cambs, Hulme Professor of Greek in the University of Manchester 1949-72, where he had also been Dean of the Faculty of Arts and of the Faculty of Music and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, left estate valued at £188,923 net. He left £2,000 to St John's College, Cambridge.

Mr Donald Arthur Work of Cambridge, Fellow Emeritus of Hughes Hall, Cambridge, left estate valued at £456,429 net.

He left £99,500 and other bequests to personal legacies, £50,000 to Cambridge University Faculty Board of Music, to provide an annual lecture, prizes for students, the provision of recitals assisting students or other charitable purposes as they decide, £2,500 to Elizabeth Phillips Hughes Hall, Cambridge, to further academic development by providing a bi-annual lecture complementing the existing bi-annual Wood Memorial Lecture, together with his Grosvenor-Seymour piano and stool, £2,500 to the Chair of St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge, to establish a distinguished visiting Professorship, £2,000 to St Edmund's Church, £2,000 to Congregational Church, Hants, in memory of his parents, £2,000 to the Bach Choir, and the residue to his Trustees for wholly charitable purposes as they from time to time decide.

Journalist's award

Nick Nuttall, the *Times* technology correspondent, was named BT national and regional newspapers technology journalist of the year. Mr Nuttall received the award from Heinz Wolff, professor of bioengineering at Brunel University, and Dr Alan Rudge, managing director of development and procurement at BT's Marlesham Laboratories, at the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were hosts at an opera evening at the Queens on Saturday in aid of Meicup and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

University news

London ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL SCHOOL. Dr C.A.J. Wils, to be Professor in Reproductive Physiology; Dr B.R. Bewley to be Reader in Public Health Medicine.

OCT 5 ON THIS DAY 1928

These memoirs were written by Siegfried Sassoon (1896-1967), rider to hounds, soldier and poet. They were greatly admired and, in the months after their publication, repeatedly reprinted. Sassoon, who was awarded the Hawthornden Prize in 1929, published *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* under his own name soon after.

A FOXHUNTER'S MEMOIRS. MEMOIRS OF A FOXHUNTING MAN (Paber and Gwyer, 750d. net).

The anonymous writer of these memoirs must be now, judging by the few events that he describes to which one can put a date, but little over 40. The record which he has set down is that of his youth, and comes to an end amid scenes of war, in the spring of 1916. The ending is, indeed, a little abrupt, and it would seem possible that the writer intends to tell us something more of that young foxhunter, left forlornly "sploshing" back to his dug-out on Easter Sunday at dawn. If so, and if that more equals this in quality, it will certainly be welcomed.

The best of a good tale is in the telling, as many others besides Shakespeare have shown us. The life of this writer, as boy and man up to the outbreak of War, must have been extraordinarily pleasant to live, whatever moralists may have to say regarding its idleness, but it was not particularly eventful. Other youths in those easier days before 1914, backed by moderate but assured incomes, dallied awhile unable to decide upon a career; played cricket in summer, hunted in winter, rode in a few point-to-point races. For some even horsemanship came more naturally, having averages were higher, "pots" more plentiful; for our author is almost painfully

anxious to impart to us a sense of his mistakes, his fumbling, his nervousness. But as he relates the story there emerges a most delightful picture of English country life, by no means of its sporting side only. It is written in the pleasantest of good prose, simple, cool, and telling. It is marked by very vivid perception and by quiet and good-humoured irony. The irony is perhaps due to the fact that the majority of his associates did not quite live up to the standard he had fixed for them either in picturesqueness or skill; a standard taken from the works of Surtees. Now many more foxhunters than is commonly imagined are readers, and most are readers of Surtees. But they come to that master, as a rule, when they are already fairly experienced followers of hounds. This boy, on the other hand, was still a neophyte by the time he had steeped himself in "Handley Cross", "Mr Spongers Sporting Tour", and the other books. There was then some disillusionment when he found the tempo a little slower, the colours a little less bright, no huntsman quite so daring and clever as James Pigg, no "coper" quite so subtle as Sponger, no "character" to match Jorrocks. This is not to suggest that he was disappointed in his sport. On the contrary, his ardour grew steadily, and his last season before the War, with four horses which he could not afford in the Shires, was one of pure bliss. But he watched himself a little cynically - or now believes he did so.

The village cricket is delightfully balanced; it has all the ideal balance of games, touched with the happiest humour. Never once is it sentimentalized into an old sporting print on the one hand or debased by a hint of caricature on the other. He has dared to set upon his title-page one of the most hackneyed of all quotations: "This happy breed of men, this little world," but we feel that he has every right to it. The breed and the little world he has recreated for us with rare skill and charm.

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

"All we've had is a terse three-paragraph letter about the secretary of state's decision. We've got a child who's going to be there for seven years and we're effectively disenfranchised. It doesn't matter whether you're for or against opting out, you should have a vote. But because there's so little communication a lot of first year parents don't even know they haven't got one."

David Inman, chairman of the governors until last week, said he was unhappy but continued to support opting out. "The law says that you should make every reasonable effort to have a proper ballot and that we did, but we also made a couple of mistakes. It has come as a complete surprise to everyone," he added.

need for an amendment to existing legislation. Local Schools Information, the pressure group funded by local authorities, said Mr Patten had "exercised his discretion to arrive at the least satisfactory outcome" and should have rejected the ballot instead of ordering a rerun.

The school, founded by Cardinal Newman, was Birmingham's first sixth form college and last year won a National Schools Curriculum Award for excellence. Former pupils include J.R. Tolkien.

Parents and students have criticised the proposal to turn the college into a secondary school as running the risk of reinforcing bigotry and mistrust, and not in the best interests of education in the region.

ACROSS

- 1 Bangers for a party? (8).
- 5 A French boy trains before school (6).
- 10 The poor player cut short the minister (5).
- 11 A good painter does flat (9).
- 12 Grind may appear repulsive (9).
- 13 Late turn roars many applaud (5).
- 14 Bound to study choice (7).
- 16 The artist will put one into a giant frame (6).
- 19 A property owner has fifty roses in his transformation (6).
- 21 Tampered with a note a cleric left behind (7).
- 23 Turned out the trainee for being a lackey (5).
- 25 Contrive to get the fellow in front of a work of art (9).
- 27 Such a criminal makes some noise always (5).
- 28 Practice America for example (5).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

JOHN HUME
a. A populist rebel leader
b. A sly priest
c. A jolly huntsman

ELBOW
a. A dim-witted constable
b. A companion of Falstaff
c. Mistress Quickley's husband

CASCA
a. A serving-maid
b. A merchant of Verona
c. A conspirator

TRINCULO
a. A morose jester
b. A fairy
c. A wit of Padua

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M4-ways/roads Tandem T-M23
M4-ways/roads M23-M4
M25 London Orbital only

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National motorways
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Midlands
East Anglia
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North-east England
Scotland
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Dorset & Dorset & IOW
Dorset & Cornwall
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire & Avon
Berkshire, Bucks & Oxon
Bedford, Bucks & Essex
North, Suffolk, Cambs
West Mid & Staff Glam & Gwent
Stratford, Midlands & Worcester
Central Midlands
East Midlands
Yorkshire & Humberside
Lincs & Powys
Gwynedd & Clwyd
W England
W & S Yorks & Dalles
N England
Cumbria & Lake District
S W Scotland
W Central Scotland
N Ireland, Wales & Borders
E Central Scotland
Glenelg & E Highlands
N W Highlands
Cathness, Orkney & Shetland
N Ireland
Weatherwise is charged at 36p per minute (p

North and West. The East and South East will have light showers. Winds will be fresh or strong in the South East, occasionally gale force. Northwest Scotland and the northern isles will be cloudy, with drizzle persisting for most of the day. Outlook: dry and mainly fine in the North and West; rain in the South.

[illegible]

Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 6pm, 18C (61F); min 6pm to 6am, 12C (54F); Humidity: 29 per cent, 100% to 6pm, 100% to 6pm, 7.4 hr. Bar: main sea level, 6pm, 1,015.1 millibars—29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Worthen, 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Bognor Regis, 12C (54F). Highest rainfall: Bristol, 0.08 in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, 9.6 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.9.

GLASGOW

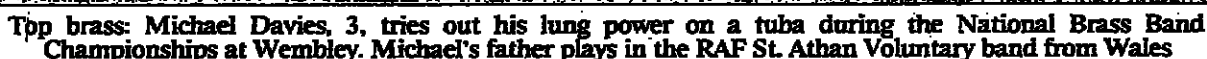
Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 6am, 14C (57F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F); Rain: 24hr

South East will have light showers. The South East, occasionally gale. The northern isles will be cloudy. The day. Outlook: dry and mainly in the South.

[illegible]

	Bank Burs	Bank S&P
Australia S...	2.47	2.27
Austria S&H	18.10	18.70
Belgium F...	23.60	42.80
Denmark R...	2,187	2,187
France F...	10,03	9,93
Germany D...	8.96	7.56
Italy F...	2.57	8.56
Japan	2.37	2.37
Hong Kong S...	367	367
Ireland F...	13.82	12.82
Switzerland F...	0.90	0.90
United King...	22.00	22.00
Japan Yen	222.25	203.25
Netherlands Gld	2.60	2.67
Portugal Esc	11.50	11.50
Portugal Esc	203.25	212.00
South Africa P...	5.50	4.80
Spain P...	163.00	163.00
Sweden L...	10.30	8.59
Switzerland F...	2.25	2.07
Switzerland F...	1310.00	1210.00
U.S. Dollars	1.007	1.017
Yugoslavia Dlr ...	1.81	1.81

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The two-to-one majority against Maastricht is a mirror image of the margin in favour of Britain remaining in the Community in the 1975 referendum. The poll also shows that the balance of views on Maastricht is similar across supporters of the parties. Only

31 per cent of Tories would back the treaty in a referendum and only 36 per cent of Labour supporters would.

**Mori details and
Fowler interview, page 2
Tory bandages, page 10
Leading article and
letters, page 11
1922-committee and
conference fashion,
L&T section**

However, ministers already face opposition from senior backbenchers who are arguing that higher taxes are preferable to further rises in interest rates. Lord Parkinson, the former party chairman, said it was essential to avoid higher interest rates and that tightly controlled spending might not be enough to convince the markets that the government was serious about inflation. In that situation, tax increases might be needed.

He said: "As part of getting interest rates down, giving the economy a boost and maintaining the capital programmes in the public expenditure programme, I would be prepared to see a levy of some kind that would put up taxes. The last thing our economy needs at the moment is higher interest rates and if another price has to be paid as part of the price of getting them down, I would be prepared to pay that."

Mr Heseltine, the board of trade president, is a member of the cabinet committee that meets this morning to continue the fight to keep the public spending target to £244.5 billion, or even lower. Interviewed on BBC Radio he said that the option of higher taxes was the "least attractive" to a Conservative government. Although it was a "technical" and "hypothetical" option, it was not one to which the government was working

Mr Clarke, home secretary, interviewed on BBC Television's *On the Record* programme, said the ERM withdrawal meant that the government's previous pledges to control public spending were even more important to give the government credibility in the new situation of a floating exchange rate. The government, he added, had pledged itself against tax increases, "which is why we have to look to public spending to get the fiscal deficit down to acceptable levels".

Asked whether he was saying there would be no tax increase, Mr Clarke replied: "Our policy, our aim, is to get public expenditure under control so that there is no need for tax increases."

London 6.29 pm to 7.10 am
Bristol 6.36 pm to 7.19 am
Leeds 6.47 pm to 7.30 am
Manchester 6.36 pm to 7.20 am
Penzance 6.52 pm to 7.30 am

Sun rises:
7.05 am

Sun sets:
6.29 pm

Moon rises:
12.28 am

Moon sets:
3.53 pm

Temperature at midday yesterday: c. cloud, f. fail
r, min, s, sun

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	14	57	Guernsey	15	59
Birmingham	12	54	c. Inverness	14	57
Blackpool	16	59	f. Jersey	15	59
Bristol	16	61	f. London	15	59
Cardiff	15	59	s. Manchester	14	57
Edinburgh	13	55	c. Newcastle	13	55
Glasgow	13	55	c. Newquay	13	55
			Guernsey	15	59

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.41	5.8	9.37	5.7	Liverpool	8.53	6.9	7.25	7.3
Aberdeen	9.34	3.2	9.45	3.9	Lowestoft	4.31	2.1	6.13	2.2
Avonmouth	6.58	2.8	7.07	2.7	Manchester	7.01	4.9	7.19	4.9
Belfast	2.93	2.8	7.12	3.0	Millwall Haven	1.21	4.8	2.13	5.1
Birkenhead	6.8	2.2	6.87	1.9	Newquay	12.21	5.0	1.13	5.2
Devonport	8.22	4.1	12.23	3.3	Penarth	1.1	2.7	6.8	4.4
Dover	13.34	5.1	7.38	5.1	Penzance	1.27	1.3	12.13	4.2
Edinburgh	12.22	4.1	12.23	4.1	Portland	1.27	1.3	12.13	4.2
Glasgow	7.25	3.9	8.13	4.2	Portsmouth	6.31	3.8	6.55	3.1
Hemel Hempstead	6.42	3.1	7.35	3.1	Southampton	6.35	4.6	7.10	4.5
Hull	6.58	6.4	6.4	6.4	Southend	6.42	6.4	6.4	6.4
Kidderminster	7.47	2.7	2.31	5.2	Swansea	1.22	6.9	2.0	7.1
Lancaster	1.08	4.8	6.45	6.7	Tees	11.54	4.1		
Kings Lynn	1.28	4.9	6.28	6.7	Wilton-on-Tyne	9.47	3.3	7.55	3.3
Lath	10.28	4.2	70.41	4.3					

Time in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

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IN THE NEWS

Goodwin's foresight saga beats the slump

Two years ago the cranes of Hewden Stuart towered menacingly over a development-scarred London landscape like something from War of the Worlds. But, just like HG Wells' Martians, their demise was already being plotted. Fortunately the man doing the plotting was Sir Matthew Goodwin, Hewden Stuart's chairman. With the foresight of someone with 30 years in the plant hire business and the shrewdness of a Scottish accountant, Sir Matthew looked at the late eighties and did not like what he saw. The result was that as others borrowed their way to boom and destruction, Hewden Stuart started quietly de-gearing. Equipment that had only been for rent was still for rent, but with a tempting option to buy at the end of the hire period. It worked. Half the 180-strong tower crane fleet that once helped build such landmarks as Canary Wharf and Broadgate is now dispersed, part of a process that ensured that when recession hit there was cash in the bank. The strategy's success was a vindication of Sir Matthew's conservatism, with a little "C". But that it was necessary at all must have been disap-



Goodwin: foresight

pointing to one of those rare Scots whose politics begin with a capital "C". At 63 the former deputy chairman of the Scottish Conservatives may have stepped down from active politics, but his commitment to Hewden Stuart — a company now admired rather than derided for its caution — remains strong. While other plant hire groups dance to the tune of their finance houses, this week's interims should show it squeezed by recession, but nevertheless locked in a cash-rich, virtuous circle that allows it to keep its fleet up-to-date and in demand. The recession has brought benefits as companies decide that the expensive bit of kit they had got used to buying every five years might be better leased and — if Hewden Stuart gets its way — operated and serviced by a third party. The active role is crucial. Sir Matthew may be a banker by nature, but Hewden Stuart is no bank.

MATTHEW BOND

THE government is to offer for sale some of the 30 mines it plans to close ahead of the privatisation of British Coal. In a controversial move, the trade department has decided to try to sell some of the pits, even though they will be handicapped without the benefit of coal contracts with the two power generators, National Power and PowerGen. About 30 pits are scheduled to be closed, reducing British Coal to a core of 20 mines ahead of privatisation in 1994, because of a shrinking demand for coal from the English

and Welsh electricity companies. Under a proposed five-year contract, the volume of coal would shrink from 65 million tonnes this year to 40 million next year and 30 million for the next four. Once the coal contracts between British Coal and the generators are signed British Coal will nominate the pits deemed to have no viable future for closure. But an industry source said the government hopes to find buyers among mining groups. The DTI's main worry over the plans is that groups of miners being made redundant with the closures may be tempted to put their redun-

dancy package into buyout funds for their mines. If the mine then fails, the miners will have lost everything. The signing of the contracts is still believed to be over a week away. It is delayed by objections raised by the regional electricity companies which must agree to take coal-fired power before the generators can sign up for the coal. Yorkshire Electricity is taking the brunt of the blame for the delay. Last week, it said: "We have offered to take our fair share of coal-based contracts in relation to our size of the franchise market." However, one source close to the talks said that although Yorkshire is

agreeing to take its fair share in relation to its share of the franchise market, it is ignoring the fact that other companies have contractual arrangements with other power suppliers and are not as free as Yorkshire to take more. Yorkshire is believed to be furious that it is being expected to take more coal than is should just because other firms have significant commitments with independent suppliers. One industry source said there is a good deal of in-fighting among the regional companies. They are also determined to win approval from Oftec, the industry regulator, to pass on the higher costs of coal-fired

power to the customer. Offer argues that they must supply power as economically as possible. They are annoyed that Stephen Littlechild, director general of Oftec, has been unwilling to commit himself before he has completed a review of pricing in 1994. If Professor Littlechild refuses to recognise the coal contracts, the regional companies say they will be unable to sign unless the contracts contain a let-out clause. Even if the contracts are signed this week, Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, is understood to have ruled out any announcement of a debate on energy at this week's party

conference in Brighton. He believes it would be impossible to turn the announcement of 30 pit closures into good news for the party loyalists gathering this week. The extent of the proposed closures has already horrified those in the industry. In October last year, Roy Lym, general secretary of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, was making positive noises about the privatisation. The UDM appointed advisers on the union's own role in the privatisation at the end of last October. But last week he met John Major to urge him to think again about the closures.

Trafalgar House confirms review panel enquiry

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

TRAFALGAR House has confirmed that as a result of its admission of a £102.7 million "hole" in its 1991 profits, the company's accounts are under investigation by the Financial Reporting Review Panel. The engineering and construction group, which also owns the Ritz Hotel and QE2 liner, admitted at the weekend the group's 1991 report had been under scrutiny from the Review Panel since February. While in progress, details of Review Panel examinations are confidential to the parties, and Trafalgar, headed by Sir Nigel Brookes, indicated that it would only have made a statement once the examination had been completed. However, in view of last week's unwelcome acquisition by Hongkong Land Holdings of a 14.9 per cent stake in the group, Trafalgar felt obliged to go public. The Review Panel sanctioned Trafalgar's Saturday announcement that its 1991 accounts were being scrutinised.

The Panel concentrates on larger companies and will decide to investigate if any set of accounts is qualified, if its attention is drawn to a particular set of accounts, and/or if there has been public criticism. Its current workload is said to cover at least 12 companies, though, while under study, none is named. Trafalgar said yesterday it was restrained from making further comment until the investigation was complete. At issue is Trafalgar

House's treatment of write-downs totalling £102.7 million which were taken through a revaluation reserve in the group's annual report for the year to last September. A different accounting treatment would have denied 1991 pre-tax profits, which Trafalgar had announced were £122.4 million for its 1991 financial year, compared with pre-tax profits of £151.5 million earned in 1990. Criticism of Trafalgar's accounting treatment, disclosed by the group last December in a note to the preliminary announcement, and further outlined in the annual report in February, alerted the Panel's attention and triggered its investigation. Trafalgar House is said to have co-operated fully with the Review Panel, whose examination is being conducted by up to seven of its 22 members. Trafalgar's board and advisers yesterday held an all-day "strategic meeting" in London, although it said discussions were essentially concerned with the HK Land purchase rather than the matter of 1991 accounts.

"Trafalgar House wishes to make it clear that any consequential amendments to its accounting practices and policies should not affect the aggregate of shareholders' funds shown by the company's balance sheet at September 30, 1991", the group's Saturday statement said. Its only comment yesterday was that 1991 accounts were drawn up and presented after

having taken "the best possible professional advice, and with the approval of our auditors". Terry Smith, former head of research at UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, and author of the book *Accounting for Growth*, said yesterday that he was not surprised by the admission that Trafalgar's 1991 accounts were under investigation. He said Trafalgar had made use of a switch from "current" to "fixed" in the classification of assets, "a topic which I would have dealt with separately as chapter 13 had I not been superstitious". Tomorrow, Sir Nigel will issue a robust circular urging shareholders to "stand by Trafalgar" after last week's unwelcome acquisition by Hongkong Land Holdings of a 14.9 per cent stake. HK Land has made a tender offer at 85p a share in the hope of acquiring a further 15 per cent stake. The tender offer closes on Friday. Trafalgar's shares closed last week at 85p, valuing the group at £600 million. A year ago, the group commanded a market capitalisation of more than £2 billion.

Sydney Treadgold, secretary to the Panel, said: "I can make no comment on the detail of the Review Panel's discussions with Trafalgar House." The Review Panel is expected to issue a public statement shortly when its investigation is complete. Repelling boarders, page 16
Comment, page 17

Publisher books listing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

DORLING Kindersley Holdings, the international publisher whose principal business is adults' and children's books, is planning a stock market listing this month. Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive, says historically most titles created by DK have sold more than 100,000 copies, and that 12 have sold more than a million copies. The group, which is exhibiting at the Frankfurt Book Fair this week, was established 18 years ago, and DK books sell in more than 80 countries. Pre-tax profits in the year ended June 30 jumped from £3.66 million to £7.5 million, on sales of £70.8 million (pro forma £42.8 million in 1991).



New chapter: Peter Kindersley at the Frankfurt fair

French live up to image in risk business

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

WHO would be a worker in France? With typically Gallic concern for *le style*, French finance directors rate harm to their companies' image as one of their highest risk concerns, ahead of damage to employees' lives and limbs. This order of priorities of French FDs is at odds with those of their counterparts in other countries, according to a survey commissioned by Sedgwick, the international insurance brokers. The survey, carried out by Graham Bannock & Partners, the market researcher, was based on interviews with finance directors and risk managers at 353 companies in the UK, America, France and the Benelux countries. In a ranking of types of risk by level of concern, respondents from all the countries except France rated environmental liability as their biggest worry and employee and public liability as one of the top five. In France, however, employee liability ranked a lowly 12th, behind cover

for security of property, credit risk and "image impairment". The latter is insurance taken out to cover the effects of catastrophically bad publicity about a product or the company. The problem may be uppermost in French executive minds because of the damage done to the image and sales of Perrier in 1990 when some bottles of the fizzy water were contaminated with benzene. British companies, too, have reason to be concerned about specialist areas of risk with a lower profile in other countries. Pension fund integrity risk ranks predictably high among British finance directors' priorities in the wake of the Maxwell affair. However, by far the most glaring anomaly of all is French executive attitudes towards environmental risk. Only 26 per cent of the French respondents to the survey mentioned this as one of the three most critical forms of risk for their companies. This compared with 69 per cent in the US, 58 per cent in the Benelux countries and 51 per cent in

Britain. Jan Janus, chairman of Sedgwick Nederland, said the finding reflected the lack of a major industrial pollution claims in France and a belief that the costs of an environmental disaster would be handled by central government. "For example there is an absolute absence of concern about nuclear power in France," he said. Concern about credit risk, the highest priority category of risk in France according to the survey, dates back to problems in being paid for exports to the former French empire countries of North and West Africa, he said. The overall finding of the survey, *Risk Management: A Board Room Issue for the 1990s*, was that management of risk has become an issue of increasing concern in the boardrooms of companies around the world in recent years. More than 90 per cent of American companies have adopted a risk management policy, compared with 84 per cent in the UK. Eight out of ten companies in the Benelux region and in France place responsibility with a main board director, the survey found.



Squalls ahead: Gillian Shephard faces opposition over plans to cut councils

Sterling faces more turmoil

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

SIGNS are that interest rates in Germany and the rest of Europe may soon start to ease and take some pressure off sterling this week, but most dealers expect the pound to suffer another bad day today. It fell 5 pence against the mark and by one cent against the dollar on Friday in response to fears of political disarray in the government, as well as on disappointment that the American Federal Reserve Board and the Bundesbank both kept their interest rates unchanged. But there were strong indications that the Bundesbank Council meeting on Friday in Schwerin, eastern Germany, had seriously considered the need for lower rates both in Germany and the rest of Europe. Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, stated after the meeting that money market interest rates would be kept below 9 per cent, despite the higher official lombard rate of 9.5 per cent. According to some well-informed analysts this was intended as a clear hint to German industry, as well as other European countries, that interest rates were firmly on the way down. However, many Bundesbank council members apparently believe it would be inappropriate to announce a cut in the official lombard and discount rates until the tensions with Germany's ERM partners have died down. The anxiety about appearing to bow to foreign pressure would probably ex-

clude any move in official rates at the next council meeting, due to be held the day before the October EC summit in Birmingham. But a further slight easing in market interest rates in Germany could occur even before that. Another ERM realignment could well be the trigger for a sharper reduction in German interest rates, perhaps even before October 16. Over the

weekend Carlos Solchaga, the Spanish finance minister, said that a general ERM realignment, designed to reduce interest rates was needed and that the search for a solution would have to begin before October 16. French bankers have also told the government that the present high level of overnight rates would not be sustainable for much longer.

Unions to fight for wages councils

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

TRADES unions are to launch a campaign in Brighton today against government plans to abolish the wages councils, on the eve of the Conservative party conference. The Trades Union Congress has issued a warning that Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, is expected to announce their abolition in her speech on Thursday. The move has infuriated unions and low pay pressure groups. The TUC said the removal of the councils could push thousands of people below the poverty line. The Low Pay Unit believes that if the 26 councils are abolished, as expected in the next Employment bill, pay and working conditions will deteriorate in Britain's lowest-paid jobs.

Chris Pond, LPU director, said that with the removal of the wages councils, combined with the effect of recession on demand, "people will find further deterioration in conditions of employment". He said: "It will set in train a further wage cutting spiral. It will widen the gap between men's and women's pay." LPU figures last month showed 10 million workers in Britain are earning less than the European decency threshold, that is two out of five workers. Women's jobs are worst paid, with 51 per cent of women in full-time work earning less than the £207.13 a week decency threshold. The councils set the minimum wage for workers in low-paid jobs including the retail, catering, hairdressing and clothes manufacturing industries.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7190 (+0.0080)
German mark
2.4332 (-0.0997)
Exchange index
811 (-1.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1852.5 (-61.5)
FT-SE 100
2549.7 (-51.3)
New York Dow Jones
3200.61 (-49.71)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
17324.07 (-1070.69)

Clinton aims to target foreign firms on unpaid tax

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton, the presidential candidate now being backed by more American businessmen than any Democrat since Jimmy Carter in the mid-1970s, has proposed a \$10 billion crackdown on foreign companies to collect allegedly unpaid taxes.

If elected, he would use the money to help balance the budget and pay for reforms in education and the health service.

Mr Clinton said in a speech recently: "Foreign companies coming to America have gone up hugely in the last ten years and their taxes have gone down because they have been evading their fair share."

The Internal Revenue Service estimates that 7.1 per cent of foreign-controlled corporations paid no US income tax in 1989.

Forty per cent of returns from 13 electronic distributors showed that, despite sales of \$30 billion, they were not liable for tax at all.

In 1985, 17 foreign-controlled companies paid \$1 billion in tax on income of \$16.7 billion. By 1989, while income had quadrupled to \$63.6 billion, tax payments had fallen by almost \$600 million.

Governor Clinton's tax attack plan is seen as part of his "level playing field" policy for American corporations to help them to compete with foreign companies.

He has attracted endorsements for his election from large numbers of businessmen and some defectors from President Bush.

Three meetings arranged to set out his message to businessmen in Chicago, New York and San Francisco were oversubscribed, and Mr Clinton's campaign recently released a list of 400 executives who have pledged personal support for the Democrats.

Among them are Archibald Cox, president and chief executive of First Boston; Joseph Cullman, former chairman of Philip Morris; Richard Fisher, chairman of Morgan Stanley; Joseph Flom, senior partner at Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom; Robert Haas, chairman and chief executive of Levi Strauss; John Bryan, chairman of Sara Lee; Paul Allaire, chairman and chief executive of Xerox; Reuben Mark, chairman, president and chief executive of Colgate-Palmolive; Frank Wells, chief executive of Walt Disney; Jonathan Tisch, president of Loews Hotels; John Young, chief executive of Hewlett-Packard; Ben Rosen, chief executive of Compaq Computer; and John Sculley, who heads Apple Computer.

Recent surveys still show that the majority of businessmen support President Bush. Of the chief executives of the top 100 US companies, 39 have given a total of \$45,000 to Mr Bush.

Mr Clinton has received only two donations totalling \$1,500. But in the past two months, gamblers from London to Las Vegas have dramatically shortened the odds on a Clinton victory. And Wall Street is becoming nervous.

On Friday, the Dow Jones industrial index staged its second largest one-day fall this year after disappointing unemployment figures, no cut in interest rates and fears of poor third-quarter profit figures due out this month.

The news increases pressure on Mr Bush to produce an economic miracle with less than four weeks to polling day.

Analysts say a Clinton victory is not factored into the market and could cut the index by a further 10 per cent over the next six months.



Battle of Trafalgar: Sir Nigel and Sir Eric prepare to repel Hongkong boarders

Trafalgar goes on bid alert

By MATTHEW BOND IN LONDON AND LULU YU IN HONG KONG

SIR Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, the two knights at the helm of Trafalgar House, will this week attempt to put their differences behind them as they unite to repel boarders from Hongkong Land.

Although Hongkong Land is only seeking a 29.9 per cent stake in the company, the Trafalgar board is on full bid alert. Since the dawn raid on Thursday that scooped the Hong Kong company a 14.9 per cent stake, the Trafalgar board has met every day.

These meetings, it is understood, were planned before the controversy blew up over the weekend over Trafalgar's accounting policies.

A circular will be dispatched to Trafalgar shareholders this

week, probably tomorrow, explaining why Hongkong Land's 85p-a-share tender offer significantly undervalues Trafalgar's worth. Shareholders will have to make up their mind quickly. The Hongkong Land offer closes on Friday. If the Hongkong offer is even partly successful, Sir Nigel would have little choice but to invite one or two directors to join the board.

Shareholders will also be looking for firm indications of Trafalgar's future strategy. For some months there has been persistent speculation that the company planned to sell either its Ritz hotel group or its Cunard shipping business, or both. To date, the company has made no official

comment on either suggestion. The problems relating to last year's purchase of Davy Corporation also need to be addressed. Sir Nigel and Sir Eric have disagreed about many things, but in response to Hongkong Land, they will be required to act as one.

Meanwhile, Nigel Rich, in Hong Kong, has shown his flair as taipan of the Noble House. Hongkong Land's dawn swoop on Trafalgar House was hailed as a well-timed buy into an ill-managed, undervalued company. It is the Jardine Matheson group's biggest foray into the recessionary British market.

Mr Rich, Jardines' managing director, is not known as an aggressive predator. Businessmen and analysts describe him as a solid, smart executive completely loyal to the Kewick family, which founded the group nearly 140 years ago. The 47-year-old taipan succeeded Brian Powers, the high-flying American who lasted only six months with Jardines. In 1989 and has since placed the group firmly in a position of growth and acquisition.

He has moved cautiously, however, piling up cash from property sales when the Hong Kong market became too expensive, before eyeing opportunities elsewhere.

Shares in Euro Disney fall below issue price

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SHARES in Euro Disneyland are expected to come under further pressure this week as the stock market worries about more bad news from the theme park east of Paris.

The company is negotiating all-important prices for next summer season with tour operators but is denying reports that the talks are not going well.

The shares tumbled throughout last week, from 948p at Monday's opening to 820p at Friday's close, with 68p of the damage done on Friday alone. They are now below the 1989 issue price for only the second time — the first came this summer, on the issue of a gloomy report from an American broking house.

Euro Disneyland's prospects have not been helped by the turmoil on currency markets. Falls in the value of sterling and the lira will take a toll on the number of expected visitors. Last week's share falls were exacerbated by a report in *La Tribune de l'Expansion*, a French financial newspaper, that the number of visitors on September 30, the last day of Euro Disneyland's financial year and coincidentally a holiday for French schoolchildren, was particularly poor, at 7,300. This was denied by the company, which said that September had generally been a good month and in line with expectations. Brokers in London were in agreement, estimating about 15,000 visitors.

But *La Tribune* said that Euro Disneyland had embarked on an urgent study on how the public viewed the project and was planning extra publicity in the press. Nicholas de Schonen, the company's chief spokesman, denied any special activity but said that the share price was easily affected by rumours.

Nigel Reed, leisure analyst at Paribas in London, thinks the park saw 6.86 million visitors from April 12, when it opened, to the end of last month and is set for 9.4 million in the first full year, a far cry from the 11 million forecast before the recession took hold.

He thinks Euro Disneyland will be reporting net losses of as much as Fr 300 million when the 1991-2 figures are unveiled in mid-November, rising to Fr 650 million for 1992-3, which will include the less profitable winter trade for the first time.

Mr Reed says: "With the asset value half the share price, I think there's still considerable downside in the shares."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Linx strengthens board ahead of market debut

INSTITUTIONAL presentations begin this week for Linx Printing Technologies, the manufacturer of continuous ink-jet printers, which will make its stock market debut this month. In the run-up to the flotation, via a share placing, Linx has strengthened its board by appointing Michael Moore, the chairman of Tomkins, as a non-executive director.

The placing, which is being handled by Morgan Grenfell, is expected to value Linx at about £35 million, assuming its shares command the same rating as Dynimo Printing Sciences, its principal competitor. In the year to end-June, Linx made pre-tax profits of £1.6 million on turnover of £10.5 million, more than three times the profit and sales it was achieving two years ago. The Huntingdon-based company makes machines that can mark a wide range of food and pharmaceutical items with sell-by dates and batch codes. Its machines allow virtually any shape or surface to be marked with an appropriate code. Derek Harris, the chairman, founded the company in 1986, and already it is thought to have a 10 per cent share of the world market.

Ten vie for Lloyd's seat

ALFRED Doll-Steinberg, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group of Lloyd's names and one of the most prominent dissident members of Lloyd's, is one of ten candidates for the one external seat on the ruling Council of Lloyd's that will have to be filled for 1993. Other candidates include David James, the company doctor and chairman of the Dan-Air parent company Davies & Newman, and Andy Ripley, the former England rugby international. Four internal member seats are also due to fall vacant at the year-end. The ten candidates for the posts include David Rowland, who must be elected in order to be eligible to serve as chairman of Lloyd's next year. He has already been nominated for the position by David Coleridge, the current chairman.

MMI decision soon

MORE than 500 local authorities in Britain will this week learn the fate of MMI, their main insurer, which stopped accepting new business last week. A company statement is due on Wednesday, when the outcome of talks about the transfer of its business to other insurers is expected to be announced. The personal lines business, which contributes about a third of group premiums, is the most likely part to be preserved intact. The local authority accounts, which make up more than half the group's business and suffered huge losses over liability and arson claims last year, will prove more difficult to transfer. MMI is likely to seek agreement with its creditors to establish a scheme of arrangement, allowing an orderly winding down of its affairs and a higher percentage payout to claimants than would be possible in a liquidation.

Loss expected at Stora

STORA, Europe's largest forest products company, is today expected to disclose big losses in interim figures for the first eight months of this year. Analysts expect losses of 350 million to 400 million kronor for the May-to-August period. In the same period last year the company showed a Kr162 million (£17.5 million) profit. Lars-Ake Helgasson, the Swedish company's president, said last week he expects Swedish government moves to cut industry's costs, saving Stora Kr175 million next year. He also revealed plans to cut the company's costs by Kr1 billion in 1993, a further Kr1 billion the next year and intensify its focus on core businesses. The current programme of cost cutting is on target to pare costs by Kr2 billion by the end of this year.

Buyouts at six-year low

MANAGEMENT buyouts have dropped to their lowest level for six years, KPMG Peat Marwick reports. There were only 12 buyouts worth more than £10 million in the third quarter of 1992 compared with 15 in the previous quarter. The total value of the buyouts in the July-September period was £298 million, down from £550 million in the April-June period. Chris Beresford, of KPMG, says: "Managements are still keen to buy out companies, but are being put off by the unrealistic prices still being set by many vendors."

Swedes use pressure from currency markets to accelerate reforms

THE centre right government in Sweden has turned the adversity of recent currency market turmoil to its advantage on the economic policy front with the support of the Social Democrat opposition, according to Anne Wibble, the finance minister.

The Swedes' determined defence of the krona last month appeared last week to have succeeded, allowing interest rates to come down.

As foreign exchange market pressure eased, following Thursday's all party package to cut industry's costs, the Swedish central bank on Friday dropped its key overnight lending rate to the commercial banks by four points to 20 per cent.

In September, this rate was pushed up to 500 per cent to let the markets know the government was not going to devalue or unpeg the krona from the ecu.

Mrs Wibble, in an interview with *The Times*, said the intense pressure emanating from the currency market was used to accelerate government plans for adjusting domestic policy. In the face of severe pressures similar to those that forced Britain and Italy to leave the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), Sweden has relied on its own resourcefulness rather than an international network of supportive agreements.

Concerned that its high interest rate shield would intensify the recession gripping Sweden, the government on September 20 secured opposition support for an agreement to shear Kr40 billion (£4.33 billion) a year off the budget deficit. The deal, to run until 1994, a year after the next general election, provides for deep cuts into the generous welfare state system built up under



Air of authority: Anne Wibble, finance minister

decades of social democratic rule. As Mrs Wibble explained, the September 20 package to reduce the non-cyclical element of the budget deficit was "not good enough" to assuage market doubts about the government's determination to stick to its policy.

The follow-up package agreed last Wednesday will, from January, slash 5 percentage points off the payroll tax paid by industry, cutting 18 billion kronor off government revenues. The shortfall will be made up by higher VAT and

reductions of tax-free allowances. Holidays were also cut by two days a year for many private sector employees.

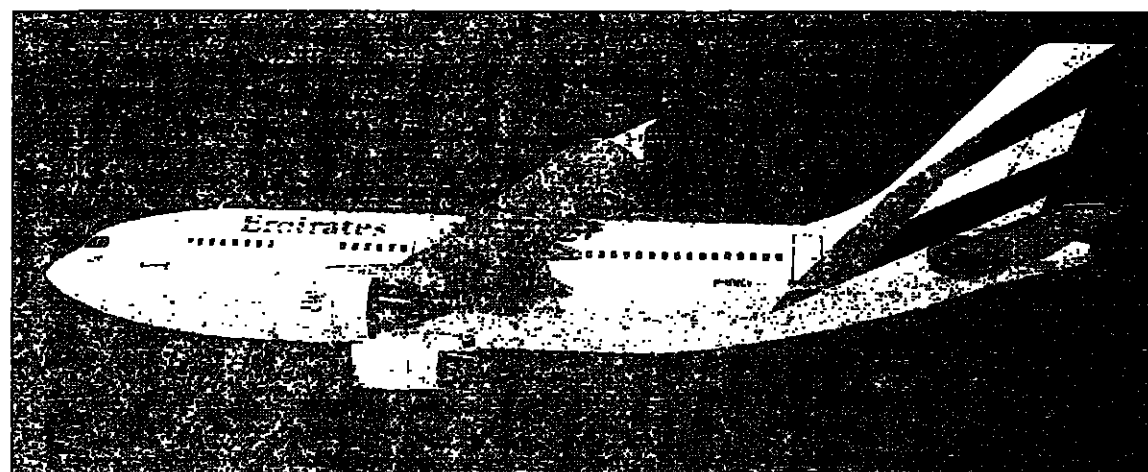
Mrs Wibble denied that this represented the beginning of the end of Sweden's welfare state. She said Swedes liked most of the welfare state system, but the excesses of the 1980s had produced an imbalance between private and public sector. "We have to reduce public expenditure," she said, noting, however, that she would have advocated more spending in the depression of the

1930s. Daughter of a Nobel Prize winning economist, and an accomplished economist in her own right, Mrs Wibble has an air of authority on matters economic. Fully aware of the short-term damage a strong krona and higher personal taxation could do to the economy, she nevertheless sees no room for delaying necessary adjustment. "Putting decisions off means that the decisions must then be tougher," she said.

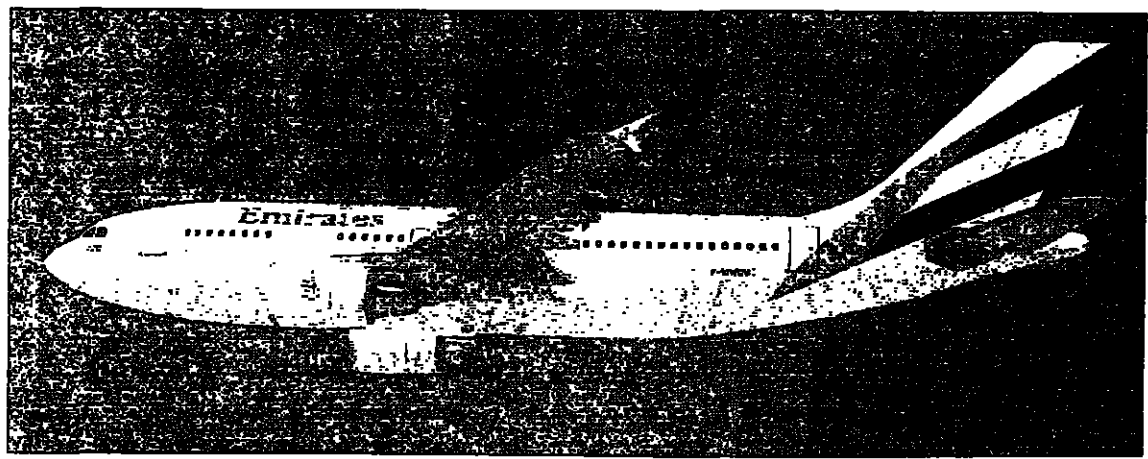
The aim of current Swedish policy was to be a member of the monetary "hard core" in Europe at the earliest opportunity. The ecu peg is just a first step, she said. Sweden hopes to join the European Community in 1995.

Convinced that it takes more than talk to persuade markets, she believes Sweden needs "actions, not just words" to get its message across. Political consensus on exchange-rate policy was also important. "We have used crisis to speed up internal adjustment," Mrs Wibble said. Political consensus has allowed Kr70 billion to be cut from public expenditure in an overall economy of Kr1,400 billion.

With the economy expected to shrink another 1 per cent this year and show no growth next year, the government is aiming to return Sweden to annual growth of about 3 per cent, better than anything seen in the 1980s. Unemployment is expected to rise to what, for Sweden, is an alarming level of 6 per cent next year. Mrs Wibble expects political consensus to favour tough policies to prevent high unemployment becoming firmly established. "We will push the unemployed into jobs," she said. Unemployment benefit is now available for only one year.



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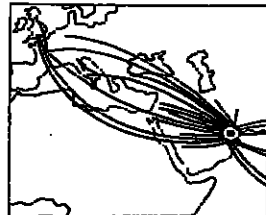


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COMMENT

First auguries of bids to come

Takeover bids have been few and far between recently, not least because banks with burnt fingers have not been falling over themselves to supply the cash and there has been a relatively high failure rate among bids based mainly on an exchange of shares. This atmosphere could rapidly change if and when a recovery starts and bidders are prepared to take a more optimistic view than the stock market. Several big and aggressive companies have, like Hongkong Land, plenty of cash. Other rated corporate names such as RTZ or BTR can still command the attention of lenders and underwriters.

Different perceptions of risk are one of the keys to takeover activity and there is no doubt that, after so many shocks, liquidity worries and collapses, stock market values are still heavily influenced by perceived risk. Cyclical stocks may have come back into fashion during the post-devaluation rise of about 10 per cent in share prices, but the all-share index has lagged behind the FT-SE 100 index of blue chips of late.

Company chairmen and especially driven entrepreneurs such as Alan Sugar, perennially feel that their company's share price is too low. At such moments, when outsiders demand a bigger discount for risk, this is particularly the case. Cheap bids have a better chance of success, although they also give the target company an opportunity to dispel generalised investor fears. There are many reasons for this distrust of stock market valuations by directors, one being that they have a higher opinion of their own management skills than outside observers. One of the most important is that they think their company has some definable value in isolation.

In practice, companies have two quite different valuations. Their stock market value, published every day, reflects their relative ranking in the vast spectrum of financial investments, including not only all other quoted companies but foreign shares, bonds, government securities, property and the returns available on cash. Their second value, which often surfaces only during takeover bids, is as collections of business assets. That valuation reflects the alternative cost to other companies of investing, from scratch, to build those assets or some other business yielding similar expected returns, or the alternative cost of gaining the market share held by the target company. There is no particular reason why the two valuations should always coincide.

The tendency for stock market values to be lower than one company's value to another can be most marked during periods of high interest rates and during the recovery phase of economic cycles. High interest rates depress prices of financial assets by reducing the value of an anticipated income stream relative to cash. By contrast, high interest rates greatly increase the perceived risk of greenfield developments or research and development relative to a business that is up and running and earning more predictable profits. Although the value of business assets is depressed too, buying another company becomes relatively more attractive than expanding organically.

In the upswing of a recession, stock market values and price earnings ratios allow for profit recovery but are often cautious. Investors who have seen profits dive in the downswing want to see the recovery before they believe it, especially after such a long recession as this. The credibility of managements, such as that of Trafalgar House, may also have fallen drastically as a result of performance during the recession. Forecasts of dramatic improvements in profitability might well be received with considerable scepticism. When it comes, the period between the start of recovery and the time when big profit rises are actually achieved and reported, will therefore be a phase of maximum opportunity for bidders that have real muscle and have kept their reputation intact.

Anatole Kaletsky believes the prime minister should remember the motto of the SAS: who dares, wins

Will John Major allow the political and economic drift to continue? Or will he finally accept responsibility for the economy instead of blaming the financial markets, his predecessors or the Bundesbank? The prime minister's experience will tempt him towards the first option. He does not seem to like making decisions. In most of the great events of his career — ERM entry, the Gulf war, the toppling of Mrs Thatcher — he has been an almost passive participant, executing or responding to decisions made by others.

But the devaluation of sterling may turn out to be the last responsibility conveniently lifted from Mr Major's shoulders. If at the Conservative conference this week he continues to lead from the rear in his habitual manner, his career could soon be over. If, on the other hand, he takes a risk and defies his advisers, he has an excellent chance of emerging triumphant from the apparent disasters of recent weeks. Without some risk there can be no reward.

The risk he must take is clear. He must announce and begin to implement a new economic policy that will end the recession, control inflation and restore confidence among businessmen and consumers. The risk is that such a policy would be hard to sell politically and would jeopardise confidence in the pound. The policy must have three components.

First, interest rates must be cut immediately to 7 or 8 per cent simply to prevent business and consumer confidence collapsing in tandem with the pound. The second component, which must be announced simultaneously, is a new anti-inflationary policy based on sharp cuts in government borrowing, and a freeze on public sector pay, as well as indicative targets for various definitions of the domestic money supply. To say that next year's public spending targets will be met (which is the best the Treasury is offering at present) is not good enough. As part of a package sweetened by popular cuts in interest rates — first to 7 per cent and then to 5 per cent — the government could go much further. Not only public sector pay but other sacred cows, including defence spending, mortgage tax relief and indexation of non-means-tested

state pensions, could be dragged into the political arena.

If necessary, the government must also be willing to raise income tax, especially on the higher paid. One way to do this would be to suspend the indexation of personal tax allowances, which would also send a firm signal of the government's determination to stop inflation. Another measure with symbolic and fiscal benefits would be for the Treasury to stop issuing long-term fixed interest bonds, and offer index-linked gilts instead.

Ruthlessness in these areas should be matched not only by lower interest rates, but also with a more constructive and generous approach to public investment and poverty relief. These would defend Mr Major not only against charges of deepening the recession but also of Thatcherite insensitivity to the needy and the economy's long-term growth.

Third, Mr Major must give an unequivocal commitment to cut interest rates aggressively further, as and when the targets on public sector spending, pay and monetary growth, are met. To get inflation-adjusted interest rates below 3 per cent would be a good objective.

A balanced package like this would revive the economy and offer the best possible reassurance against inflation, as well as being political self-defence. None of the measures on their own would have any chance of success. Cuts in public spending, without corresponding cuts in interest rates, would be politically and economically disastrous. Lower interest rates without tough action on spending and pay would be equally damaging; without strong fiscal signals, promises to control inflation would lack credibility, whatever cocktails of money supply and currency targets the Treasury devised.

Naturally, Treasury officials who worshipped before the ERM totem oppose such a package. They think sharp cuts in interest rates would undermine the pound. This possibility cannot be excluded, but the risk is probably not great. International confidence is already at such a low ebb that sterling is approaching undervalued levels. More importantly, the investment community has realised that the pound's value will now be set by the demand

ECONOMIC VIEW

It's make your mind up time for that nice, indecisive Mr Major



Decisions, decisions: John Major should opt for the hands-on approach

for British goods and real assets. Actions that boost the real profitability of British industry will bolster demand for sterling.

Ten days ago, I was asked by one of the world's most successful investment funds for my views on the government's strategy after the devaluation. I said a new policy might be built around the kind of package of cuts in interest rates, public spending and wages outlined above. There was no indication the government would back such a policy and some evidence that it would be opposed by those

who had inspired Mr Major's blind faith in the ERM. But ten days ago, the ERM cabal appeared discredited and the chances of a new economic policy seemed good. Betting on this, the fund bought tens of millions of pounds worth of British shares.

This reaction to Britain's policy options was quite typical, judging by conversations with investors around the world and, more importantly, by the behaviour of the financial markets since September 16. When interest rates were reduced to 9 per cent and interest rates and a new policy package. But, at least he can

count a further full point cut, the pound and stock market rallied. Last week, as ministers turned away from the economy and hinted it would take months, rather than days, for monetary and fiscal policy to be reordered, hopes of another cut in base rate receded and the pound duly collapsed.

Mr Major must realise that nobody can say for certain whether the pound would rise or fall in response to a sharp cut in interest rates and a new policy package. But, at least he can

now discount completely the advice of his Treasury officials. What can be said with confidence is that failure to act quickly could condemn both the pound and Mr Major to bottomless decline.

If there is no cut in interest rates soon, business and consumer confidence will collapse, with the active encouragement of Michael Heseltine and others who are presenting devaluation as a disaster. There will be a new slide into recession, another jump in public borrowing and a fiscal crisis. By next year, the only possible solution left will be to resignate inflation — and that decision will probably be left for Mr Major's successor.

Ironically, the more Mr Major tries to fight inflation by propping up the pound with high interest rates, the more certain will be his eventual surrender. But the irony is even more delicious. It is already becoming clear how the next inflationary boom might be justified.

Just as Nigel Lawson deflected attention from his inflationary policies by shadowing the German mark, Mr Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke would be able to justify a massive inflationary boom. They would simply have to rejoin the ERM at a time when the German economy was in recession and the pound was severely depressed — exactly the picture likely to be presented by the second half of next year, if British economic policies continue to drift.

Until this weekend I found it hard to understand why previously wet Euro-enthusiasts in the cabinet were so intent on warning of the inflationary dangers of devaluation. A possible motivation is now becoming clear. If Mr Major commits political suicide by keeping interest rates high in a vain attempt to defend sterling, the Euro-enthusiasts will be able to blame the Major-Lamont devaluation for the continuing recession. Whichever of them succeeded Mr Major would then offer ERM re-entry as a panacea — and as a licence to inflate out of the recession in the best Lawson style.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tipping the wink

THE City has a new world champion. Last week, without fanfare, Geoffrey Myers, 24, an economist from the Office of Fair Trading, unseated American Larry Kahn, the reigning world tiddly winks champion, in a closely matched contest, by winning 25 to 24. The contest was held in Boston, Massachusetts, and Myers has already been challenged by another American, with his first defending match to be held in Britain in November. "I am very pleased," says Myers, "but when you remember that it is tiddly winks, you don't get too carried away." He is not about to turn professional. "There's not much money in tiddly winks so I think I'll have to say put," Myers, employed by the government's economic service, is likely to be moved to the Department of Trade and Industry in 12 months' time. He competes in about seven tournaments a year, but practices irregularly. "I actually find it quite relaxing just flicking a few winks," he says. Despite Myers' modesty, his achievement is being lavishly celebrated in one corner of the Square Mile. John "Fingers" Fingleton, larger than life PR man with College Hill Associates, is his cousin. "We've never had a champion in the family before," Fingers enthuses, "except perhaps for our grandmother."

Iron-man Petras

AS the World Corporate Games in London ended last night, star of the event was Pe-



trus Juniaalonis, a Lithuanian. His team almost failed to make it until they were given free accommodation after a plea in the City Diary. Dev Annand, of Lawrence Wharf in Rotherhithe, put up the team and Juniaalonis, 57, astonished everyone by running all the way from Rotherhithe to Battersea to compete in the road running event. He then dashed back to Rotherhithe for his bike before cycling to Thorpe Park, Surrey, to finish second in the cycling final. Juniaalonis competed in the Peace Race for the Soviet Union when he was 38. Thirty years on, he is still doing his bit and is now the official responsible for developing sport in Lithuania. Other competitors say it is a job for which the energetic Juniaalonis is eminently suited.

Indian caper

THE Middleton clan seems to be popping up everywhere. At BZW, at Lloyd's of London and now at James Capel. Russell Middleton, 45, who, given

his Australian heritage, is not knowingly related to the other two, has just joined James Capel to establish and run an Indian department. Previously with Perpetual Chescor, the Pall Mall-based merchant bank, and before that at ANZ, his bullish comments about the Indian market, reported in this column two years ago, have proved well founded. "I have just set up a representative office for James Capel in Bombay and the international stock market there is opening up fantastically well. They have taken guidance from London and New York. It's a bit like Australia was in the 1970s and Japan in the 1950s. India will become a market the institutions just have to be in." India represents a new area of coverage for James Capel and Middleton says he moved to Capel because he needed "additional muscle" to cope with the speed of developments in India.

Toytown goodies

TONY Good, one of the founding fathers of public relations, seems to have entered his second childhood. Good, 59, still operates successfully in the world of financial PR, these days running the Good Consultancy, with clients such as Linklaters and Sun Life. In his spare time, however, he and Charlotte Smallman, his long-time girlfriend, have built up a thriving children's toy business. They own and operate Frog Hollow, a toy shop in Victoria Grove, Kensington — open seven days a week and used occasionally by the Princess of Wales — Frog Frolics, a party shop in Ifield Road, Fulham, and a toy-by-

mail-order business based in what was once a branch of Barclays Bank in Pewsey, Wiltshire. Group turnover is now in excess of £500,000 a year and Good says: "I'm just the part-time chairman, I throw in the odd idea." One of those is to have a prize draw for children visiting the shop this week, to encourage them to participate in national children's book week. "Yes, I do enjoy testing all the toys, but the section I enjoy most is the children's sweets section."

Russian PR

DESPITE the tepid response to Boris Yeltsin's privatisation vouchers, plans are being laid to set up St Petersburg's first financial PR firm. Simon Preston, chairman of Financial Public Relations in London, has recruited Nikolai Ryabov, an academic, to be his man in Russia. "We don't expect anything dramatic, but we want someone there to keep us posted," Preston says. Immediate plans are for Ryabov to do some detective work. In 1957, Preston was one of three Cambridge graduates who became the first English tourists to enter Russia by car since the revolution. Their journey from Brest to Yalta via Moscow in a Morris Minor was filmed by Intourist and Preston is anxious to locate the film again. "My son Adam wants to retrace our steps and make another film, but it all depends on us getting hold of the original. I think it would be a good exercise for Anglo-Russian relations, so I've asked our man to see what he can do."

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CBI calls together sides over rent spiral

By Rodney Hobson

THE Confederation of British Industry is calling together landlords and tenants today in an attempt to end the spiral of rising rents and empty commercial properties.

At the meeting, Littlewoods will attempt to present a united front of fellow retailers against rent rises.

The CBI initiative is being taken with Davies Arnold Cooper, a firm of solicitors in the City of London. John Pollard, a consultant on company law issues at the CBI, says: "Landlords and institutional investors are suffering from the slump in property values and the bankruptcy of tenants and they cannot afford to ignore the losses they are making. As the recession continues and the property market looks a long way from recovery, it is vital some consensus acceptable to landlords, tenants and investors is found."

The CBI will hold the conference at its headquarters in Centre Point in central London. It will be chaired by Keith Saunders, director of property at WH Smith.

Littlewoods called retailers together last week. Delegates have since been considering the issues raised and intend to issue an agreed statement ahead of the CBI talks.

A Littlewoods spokesman said: "Despite the crisis in the economy, the recession in the high street and the surfeit of retail premises, the property companies blindly impose the rent increases built into leases regardless of the realities of the market place. Now the major retailers demand realism."

The row over commercial property leases has been coming to a head over the past three months since two retailers, Oliver Group and Etam, formed the Property Market Reform Group to campaign for a change in the law.

Among its aims is to have upward-only rent reviews declared void and to abolish clauses holding the original tenant responsible if the lease is passed on to a company that subsequently goes bankrupt.

The reform group claims that Clarks Shoes, Dolland & Aitchison, the opticians, and Thomsons, the chocolate retailer, have joined the campaign. It will be holding a dinner at the Conservative party conference to drum up support in parliament.

Despite the collapse in property values and the over supply of offices, landlords have been determined to stick to the rent increase-only clauses, pre-

fering to offer initial rent-free periods and other incentives rather than concede the principle of falling rents.

Ian Oliver, chairman of the reform group and a former chairman of Oliver Group, welcomed the Littlewoods initiative: "We need very strong representation from major multiples. This cannot do anything but good."

Mr Oliver says that taking a rent review to arbitration is often throwing good money after bad. Arbitrators are limited by law in what evidence they can consider. Landlords can produce evidence of higher rents on similar premises but evidence of lower rents is unobtainable because landlords build confidentiality clauses into leases.

Mr Oliver says: "Shops that have gone out of business cannot be mentioned in evidence. We should have a valuer to interpret what those leases would achieve in the open market. It needs only one or two aggressive retailers to set the rent for everyone else. There is no logic to that. On the same argument, if one house in a road sells at a certain price all the other houses in the street should sell at the same price. A lot of householders would be only too pleased if that were true."

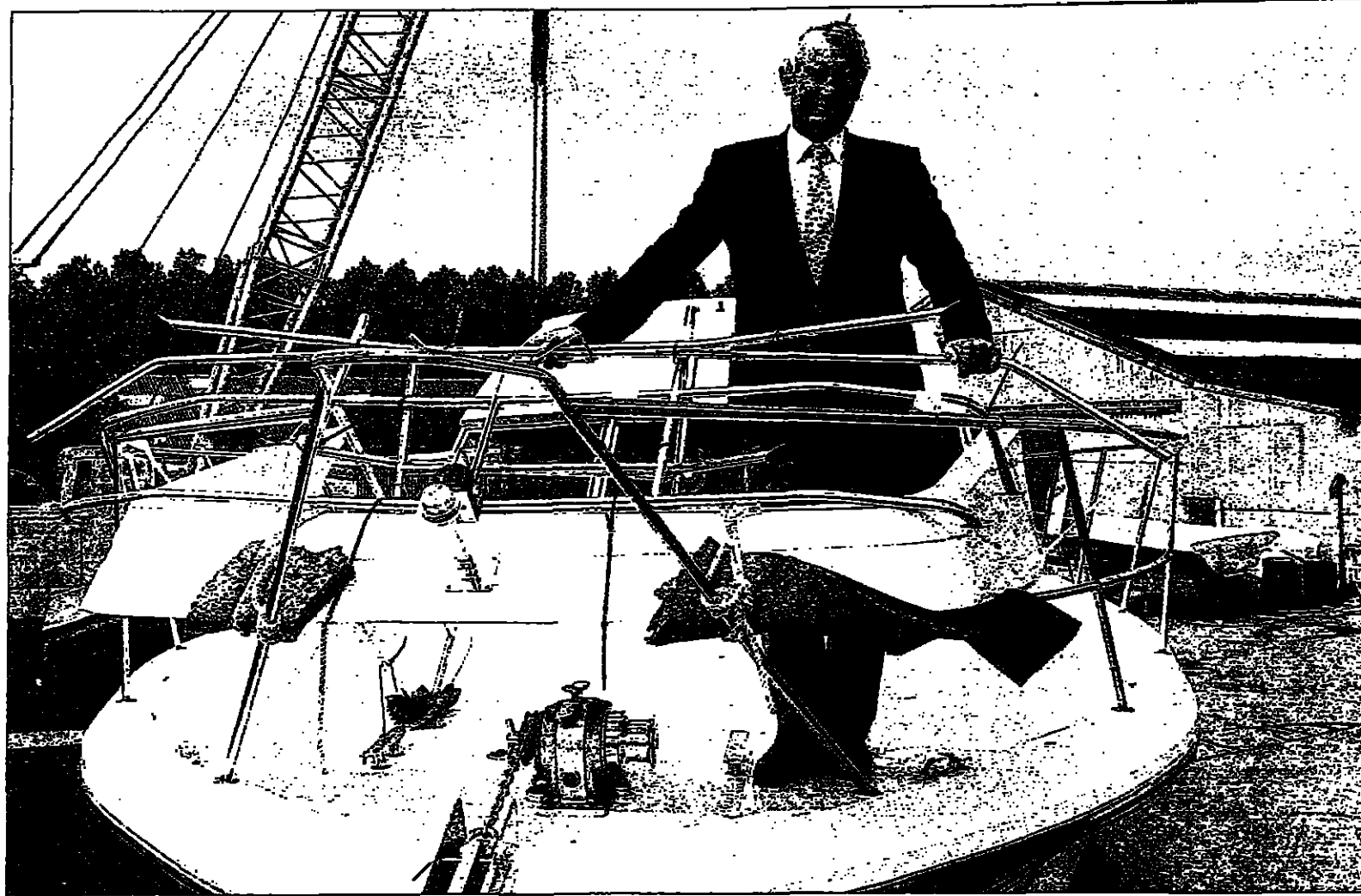
"I fear privately owned shops will go. Tourist cities such as Chester and York used to be full of interesting little shops. Now they are just like Oxford Street." He wants tribunals to replace arbitrators.

However, cases of tenants fighting back are cropping up. A victory against rising rents is claimed by a property consultant that fought an 87.5 per cent rise demanded for a shop in Chelsea. An independent arbitrator ruled that there should be no increase even though other shops in the area had been let at a higher rent.

LSM Partners, the consultant, fought the rent demand on behalf of Lustr, a cleaning company leasing a 1,283 sq ft shop in King's Road for £24,000 a year.

Moss Bros also went to arbitration over a proposed rent of £235 per sq ft for its Cecil Gee shop in James Street, Covent Garden, and came away with £185 per sq ft.

Robin Mitchell, a director of de Morgan, the property consultants representing Moss Bros, said: "We were able to demonstrate how this unit was clearly of less value than most of its neighbours who had agreed higher levels."



Keeping watch: Sam Newington, the chairman of Fairline Boats, whose shares have tumbled from 590p to 145p over the past year

Fairline sails into turbulent waters

SMALLER COMPANIES

TURBULENT waters have rocked Fairline Boats, the leisure craft manufacturer headed by Sam Newington, whose shares have fallen relentlessly over the past year.

Having traded at 590p only 12 months ago, the shares have slumped to 145p as investors braced themselves for bad news after September's year-end.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, broker to Fairline, had expected the company to break even. Now, it expects losses of £250,000 before tax, compared with profits of £3 million in the previous 12 months, with the total dividend falling from 21p a share to 10.5p.

Not surprisingly, it has not proved easy selling boats priced between £50,000 and £750,000 in this sort of market. Efforts to contain costs, including a 10 per cent cut in the workforce and a wage freeze since April, ensured a return to profitability in the second half but came too late to prevent Fairline dipping into the red at the full year.

Net cash is expected to fall from £3.5 million at the last year-end to £500,000. BZW rates the shares a hold, underpinned by a 55 per cent discount to assets and a prospective yield of almost 10 per cent. Mark Hudson, the BZW analyst, says that although the outlook is more encouraging as a result of the

reduced cost base, there are several challenges ahead.

Consumer confidence remains low and the second-hand market for boats is sluggish, affecting demand for new, high-margin products.

In addition, European VAT changes that come into effect in January may damage demand, blocking a loophole that allowed an EC national to avoid paying the tax if the boat was berthed in another EC country.

Next year, EC nationals will be liable for VAT at the rate of the country in which the boat is berthed. There is uncertainty whether a retrospective levy will apply.

The devaluation of sterling will partly offset the cost increase for continental buyers. Exports account for 65 per cent of Fairline's annual turnover and the fall in the pound gives the company a useful advantage over its European and North American competitors. At the Southampton boat show, the first of the major autumn shows, interest in larger boats was encouraging and came almost exclusively from potential overseas customers.

MARTIN BARROW

Scottish boatyard to close

By Kerry Gill

JAMES N Miller and Sons, the UK's oldest boat-building company, which operates from a yard in the East Neuk of Fife, will close next month with the loss of 46 jobs.

The yard at St Monans completed its biggest ever fishing vessel only a few days ago. Miller, which has built vessels for many countries, has always been closely involved with the fishing industry but has found itself with an empty order book.

The business, part of the John Mowlem group, has been run for the past ten years by Mike Brodie, managing director. He said: "The huge reductions in our traditional market of Scottish fishing boat building, resulting from the implementation of EEC quotas and so on, coupled with the recession, has reduced our activities to an unacceptable level. There is no sign of improvement in the near future."

Mr Brodie said there had been attempts to move into the construction of other small commercial craft. After some initial success this work had also dried up. Miller's order book was empty and employees at St Monans had recently been involved in work for the company's other yard at Broomborough in The Wirral.

City salaries show inflation threat will re-emerge

SINCE 1987, employment in stockbroking has fallen sharply. However, for those still in work, salaries remain high. Why has pay failed to respond to the level of unemployment among brokers?

First, firms cannot be sure that the unemployed brokers are of the same quality as their existing ones; indeed, the fact of their unemployment may give adverse signals of their abilities. Consequently, risk aversion leads companies to retain their existing staff. As the existing brokers know this, they need not accept pay cuts to avoid being replaced.

Second, even if the unemployed brokers are of the highest quality, there is a cost to the employer of employing them in place of an existing worker. There will be a "settling in" period during which the new employee regains "market feel" when his or her output is depressed. The retention of the existing worker entails no such costs.

Third, a company which replaces staff with the unemployed will rapidly gain a reputation as a bad employer. This will be expensive, partly because of its loss of image with clients, partly because it will be unable to retain staff except by paying more than the "going rate", and partly because it will be unable to motivate its employees if they believe that they will be replaced. Indeed, the existence of unemployment in the City may actually have an upward effect on pay, as firms attempt to attract workers by signalling that they are "long-term players".

For all these reasons, unemployed brokers do not exert significant downward pressure on the pay of those still in work. Rather, what depresses pay is the thought that their firm may be the next to go out of business. This fear exists not when other brokers are out of work, but when the numbers out of work are increasing. When employment in broking bottoms out, this fear of job loss will diminish and so, even with large numbers of brokers remaining out of work — the pay of remaining em-

ployees may rise. Regrettably, the City is not unusual. The same points apply to many other trades — the building labourers on Cricklewood Broadway every morning are an exception in that their pay is directly determined by the "market forces" found in out-of-date textbooks. Consequently, it is not necessary to believe in the power of unions to think that the level of unemployment has little influence on the pay of those still in work.

This is especially true as many of the unemployed are unlike out of work stockbrokers: they may have no skills for which there is even a potential demand, or they may live far from where there are jobs, or they may have become disenchanted with looking for work by the length of time they have spent on the dole. There is evidence that these "mismatch" problems increased in the 1980s.

The claim that "this was a good time to devalue because high unemployment will hold down wage inflation" is deeply questionable. Rather, wage inflation generally, like pay in the City, will be depressed not by the level of unemployment, but by the fear of unemployment. For the time being, the job losses announced last month will ensure that this fear will continue to depress wage settlements. However, as the recovery emerges — and last month's devaluation assuredly hastens this — the fear of unemployment will subside.

Consequently, even if unemployment is over 3 million when this happens, wage inflation may jump, possibly more than can be paid for by productivity gains. This means any further fall in inflation should be seen as the calm before the storm — not as a sign that inflation will not re-emerge. It follows that those who bought their index-linked gilts at 5 per cent real yields should hold: those who did not may still find long-term value available.

CHRIS DILLON and MARK CLIFFE
Nomura Research
Institute Europe

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Market looks for light at end of Eurotunnel

TODAY

EUROTUNNEL will not report conventional interim results as such, but analysts hope to get a clearer picture as to where the Channel tunnel operator stands on some of the key unresolved issues that have caused volatility in the share price. One of the issues is how near — or far — Eurotunnel, which is headed by Sir Alastair Morton, is from a settlement in the dispute over cost overruns with Transmanche Link, the Anglo-French construction group building the tunnel.

This goes hand in hand with the funding issue, with questions still unanswered on the sustainability of existing funds available and the group's banking relationship. There are still questions on how much the project will cost, the timing of completion and a more exact indication as to when the tunnel will open. At the moment, the supposed deadline of the fourth quarter of 1993 is all the City has to go on. Analysts will hope to at least receive some guidance from Eurotunnel from its first internally generated traffic and revenue forecast.

Interims: Chillingworth Corp, Eurotunnel, Kny Little, Oriel Group, Silenright Holdings, Sora Koppberg, URS International.
Finals: Microfilm Reprographics, North American Gas Investment Trust, Welsh Industrial Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: Credit business (August); housing starts and completions (August); house renovations (second quarter).

TOMORROW

Raine Industries, the house-building group that took over Walter Lawrence earlier this year, is expected to report a 34

per cent decline in final pre-tax profits to £13.5 million (£20.3 million), according to Robert Donald at County NatWest. Earnings are forecast to slide 41 per cent to 6.2p (10.5p) a share because of an increased capital base, but the net dividend should be maintained at 6p.

Improved attendances and increased admission prices will provide a boost to gate receipts at Manchester United, although the Premier League club was knocked out of the UEFA Cup competition recently. Final pre-tax profits are likely to slip to about £5 million (£5.4 million) after net transfer expenditure of about £2.5 million (£0.8 million), according to Smith New Court, the broker.

Interims: Derwent Valley Holdings, London and Manchester Group, OS Holdings, Sappi, S&U Stores, TH City of London Trust (first quarter).
Finals: Berry Wehmiller International, Brown & Jackson, Manchester United, Plaine Industries, Savage Group.
Economic statistics: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (second quarter); cyclical indicators for the UK economy (August — first estimate).

WEDNESDAY

The recessionary squeeze on consumer spending will take its toll on profits at Austin Reed Group, the clothing manufacturer and retailer. Joan D'Olier, of County NatWest, thinks Austin Reed will break even at the half-way stage, against profits of £600,000 last time. A reduced interim dividend of 2p (3p) a share is predicted.

The first half was tough for Austin Reed and sales volumes are estimated to have fallen by as much as 20 per cent, exaggerated by the absence of Robertson of Dum-

fries, the cashmere and quality knitwear manufacturer which was sold last year. Like-for-like sales are expected to be down but by about 4 per cent. August and September were thought to have been good months for clothing retailers, because of the cold weather, so there may have been a pick-up at the beginning of the second half, but a cautious statement on prospects is still likely.

Interims: Computer People Group, Gramplan Holdings, Hewlett Sharart, Ipeco, Reed (Austin) Group, Select Appointments (Holdings), Stylo.
Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (July); advance energy statistics (August).

THURSDAY

Mike Styles at Credit Lyonnais Laing expects Bowthorpe, the electrical and electronic components group, to stage a relatively resilient performance with first-half pre-tax profits of £22.6 million (£21.3 million) Market forecasts range from £20 million

to £23 million. An interim dividend of 1.8p (1.7p) is predicted. The group will benefit from the fact that about 80 per cent of profits are generated overseas, with Germany accounting for 28 per cent of profits. The group's German exposure will benefit from sterling's recent weakness.

Istock Johnson, the building materials group, is expected to see first-half profits slide to about £5 million (£7.2 million), according to Mark Hake at Nikko, the Japanese securities house. A reduced interim dividend of 1p (2.25p) a share is predicted.

With Istock's UK operations accounting for about two-thirds of profits, the depressed conditions gripping the domestic housebuilding and construction industries will undoubtedly take their toll on the group. The US operations, which suffered an operating loss of £800,000 last time, should be back in the black. But prospects in the British market remain bleak, with no signs of improvement.

Interims: Acorn Computer Group, Bilton & Battersea, Bowthorpe, Chipsetow, Racecourse, Clarkson (Horace), Country Casuals, Higgs and Hill, Istock Johnson, Tibury Douglas.
Finals: Galford, Merivale Moore, Perscorp.
Economic statistics: Details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators; new earnings survey 1992 part B: analyses by agreement.

FRIDAY

Interims: Anglo American Gold Investment Trust, Anglo American Investment Trust, Jefferson Group, Lamont Holdings, Singaby (H.C), Ustar Television.
Economic statistics: Retail prices index and tax and prices index (September).



Answers sought: Sir Alastair Morton of Eurotunnel

PHILIP PANGALOS

America threatens sanctions in oilseed dispute

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

UNDER growing diplomatic pressure from Washington, European Community foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg today and tomorrow, will throw their collective wits into reviving the moribund Uruguay round of world trade talks.

Their efforts will mark the start of an intense two weeks of negotiations between the EC and America that could at last give a definitive pointer to whether there is any hope of the round being completed before Christmas. A week on Saturday, Carla Hills, the US trade representative, will fly into Brussels with Ed Madiagan, agriculture secretary, and the gloves are likely to be off.

The key to unlocking the stalemate is resolving the transatlantic dispute over subsidies paid to oilseed farmers. The Americans' message to Frans Andriessen, the EC's external relations commissioner, and Ray MacSharry, its agriculture colleague, is likely to be simple: stop encouraging production in Europe and biting into US soyabean exports, or face retaliatory trade action.

The US wants production of oilseed rape — the biggest oilcrop in the EC — to fall from its present level of about 12.5 million tons to 9.5 million tons. In Britain last year there were 1.1 million acres of the crop. Production in Britain, the third biggest oilseed rape grower after France and Germany, is at its highest level for five years, but under a new EC payments system, it is expected to drop back.

Oilseed rape is the only oilcrop in Britain, but in warmer southern Europe, sunflowers and soyabeans are also grown. The oilseeds are processed into animal feed and oils, which can be directly consumed or go into making fats such as margarine. In 1990, 6.38 million tons of soyabeans were imported in the EC, but now the market is shrinking.

US farmers claim they are losing up to \$1 billion a year because of subsidies paid to EC oilseed farmers, but the commission says Washington is ignoring the effect of other producers, such as Argentina and Brazil, on the world market. Brussels also points to the breakup of the Soviet Union, formerly a big export market for America, but now unable to buy soyabeans at world prices.

The EC has offered compensation of about £250 million to America, but that has been rejected. Mr Hills and Mr Madiagan want the issue to go to a special Gatt arbitration panel. An American deadline, by which the EC should have submitted itself to the panel, came and went last week, and Washington's bluff seemed to have been called.

But the Americans have a \$1 billion hit-list of EC farm exports earmarked for retaliatory duties, and if no movement is seen from the Community over the next two weeks, the sanctions will almost certainly be imposed.

The commission is desperate to avoid a Gatt panel, because twice in the past two years just such a panel has judged the EC's subsidies system to distort trade. After the last decision, payments to oilseed farmers were changed from being determined by weight. Under the new regime, UK farmers will probably receive about £155 per acre of oilseed rape grown.

Brussels says the new system discourages intensive farming and that production will fall, but the Americans have not bought that argument.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Outstanding	Price	Yield	Div	Div	Stock	Outstanding	Price	Yield	Div	Div	
(£m)	(£m)	(p)	(%)	(p)	(p)	(£m)	(£m)	(p)	(%)	(p)	(p)	
SHORTS (under 5 years)												
600 Bond 6% 1993	100%	98p	+	6.07	7.35	1,777	Trust 9% 2002	100%	100p	+	9.36	9.12
900 Bond 10% 1993	100%	98p	+	8.36	8.24	2,500	Trust 10% 2003	100%	100p	+	10.20	9.23
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	99p	+	9.91	8.19	440	Bond 7% 1999-04	100%	+	7.31	7.91	
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	+	+	12.10	7.99	2,012	Trust 9% 2004	100%	100p	+	9.36	9.12
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	+	+	12.10	7.99	1,600	Trust 11% 2004-05	100%	+	11.20	11.20	
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	+	+	8.46	8.10	1,600	Trust 12% 2004-05	100p	+	12.10	12.10	
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	+	+	8.46	8.10	1,600	Trust 12% 2004-05	100p	+	12.10	12.10	
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1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%	+	+	8.46	8.10	1,600	Trust 12% 2004-05	100p	+	12.10	12.10	
1,800 Bond 10% 1993	100%											

Independence for a whole section of medical practice is celebrated today. Pat Blair considers the benefits for practitioners



The coat of arms of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, whose motto reads: *It is divine to sedate pain*

Celebrations today mark a newly gained independence for anaesthetic practice in Britain. From being a college within the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and a faculty for 40 years before that, it has come of age as the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

The faculty was set up by the Royal College of Surgeons in 1948, the year when the National Health Service was born, and was then a minor speciality. Anaesthetics has since developed into one of the largest specialities. Now, almost one in seven hospital doctors is either a consultant or a trainee anaesthetist, working in the operating theatre and pain clinics and often heading intensive care units.

On March 16 the Queen grant-

ed the anaesthetists' college a royal charter and today the college will be formally dedicated at a service in St Clement Danes Church, in central London. Afterwards, at Guildhall in the City, nearly 100 men and women, from the UK and countries as far apart as France and India, Iraq and Australia, will receive the FRCA's diplomas that admit them to fellowship. To some, says Professor Alastair Spence, the college president, a royal prefix and a charter may seem mere gobbledegook but he believes they carry implications for anaesthesia and the standard of patient care.

New status, renewed challenge

The tradition stems from such occasions as when craftsmen barber surgeons in Edinburgh in 1505 received the Seal of Cause, licensing them to practise. Previously, barber surgeons had included "unreliable and ill-disciplined individuals who lacked public esteem and, in some cases, were a public danger", says Professor Spence, the professor of anaesthesia at the Edinburgh University.

He says: "Charters were, and still are, given to bodies so that the public interest might be better fulfilled. To be a fellow offers privileges, but it also imposes responsibilities to ensure that the

corporate standards of fellowship are maintained and sustained."

All anaesthetists, trainees or consultants, are fully qualified doctors and the college's 5,000 fellows have gained their fellowship through examination. "It is a qualification that is much sought after," Professor Spence says.

There are three years of basic specialist training and three years of higher specialist training before examinations. Nearly half the fellows are women, but that is not yet reflected in the elected 20-practitioner council: only three are women.

As part of its main function to

set and maintain standards, the college approves and oversees all training syllabuses, bestows recognition on hospitals where training may take place, and has established a senior lectureship at Birmingham University.

Alethea Rogers, the appeals director, says the college has almost reached its target of £5 million, to be used for its new premises and for research fellowships, thanks to companies such as Glaxo, which led the way with a £600,000 donation, and ICI, BOC and Smiths Industries, which each donated more than £250,000, as well as many others.

Although the college has now legally separated from the Royal College of Surgeons, their joint investigations, such as an enquiry into post-operative deaths, have helped to point the way to improved medical practice, and the two colleges will retain their strong links.

The college is now having exploratory meetings within the European Community, with the aim of producing a body responsible for quality assurance and, initially, to establish a minimum standard of practice and training for member states.

In the *British Journal of Anaesthesia* Professor Spence says the new status renews the challenge "to offer, in a totally ethical context, the best that is possible in good, reliable and safe practice".

The profession of many skills

Anaesthesia is now one of the UK's largest specialities, and about a seventh of hospital doctors are either consultant or trainee anaesthetists, whose activities encompass many skills over and above giving general or regional (local) anaesthesia in the operating theatre.

The main functions of the Royal College of Anaesthetists are to set and maintain the standards of training and practice of anaesthetists at all levels.

British anaesthesia has established an international reputation for high clinical and academic standards, largely based on the college's diploma, originally FFRCS (Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons) and now FRCA (Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists).

Trainee anaesthetists follow a system of training prescribed by the college, consisting of a three-year basic specialist training (BST), and a three-year period of Higher Specialist Training.

Doctors may enter training in anaesthesia after becoming fully registered medical practitioners, one year after qualifications from medical school, although it is customary for intending anaesthetists to spend some time in another speciality, such as paediatrics or accident and emergency medicine, to give them a sounder general background before specialisation.

Training in anaesthesia is conducted in recognised departments in hospitals throughout the UK, and is directed during BST towards passing sequentially three examinations leading to the granting of the college's diploma.

The first examination, taken

The college's main function is to keep up standards at all levels, writes Cedric Pryor-Roberts

typically towards the end of the first year in anaesthesia training, requires an understanding of the medical assessment of the surgical patient needing anaesthesia, and a knowledge of basic techniques of general and regional anaesthesia, and post-operative pain relief.

The second examination requires a knowledge of the basic sciences of physiology (function) and pharmacology (drug therapy) relevant to

'We take a special interest in fostering the education of medical students in many different areas'

anaesthesia. Because anaesthetists are physicians who use applied physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology and physics in their everyday practice, it is important that trainees acquire a detailed knowledge of these essential subjects.

An emphasis on these applied basic sciences has been a special feature of British training in anaesthesia since the founding of the faculty. Other sister faculties in the Irish Republic, Australasia and South Africa all follow our example.

The final examination tests for competence in all aspects of anaes-

thesia, intensive therapy and acute and chronic pain therapy.

Higher Specialist Training is undertaken as a senior registrar in training schemes throughout the UK and the Irish Republic. These are supervised by the Joint Committee on Higher Training of Anaesthetists, on which the college is heavily represented.

During this time the senior registrars have opportunities to expand their expertise in specialist areas such as anaesthesia for cardiac, paediatric or neurological surgery, the management of chronic pain, adult and paediatric intensive therapy, and research into all aspects of anaesthesia.

Anaesthetists appointed to consultant posts in the NHS or universities have usually completed more than the minimum requirements of these programmes, and we can justly claim that they have had as comprehensive a training as anywhere in the world.

Among the college's most important roles are:

● **Continuing medical education:** Every doctor has a duty to his patients to keep abreast of new developments and never reaches a point at which he or she stops learning. Details of new surgical operations, new drugs, new techniques for their use and new physiological monitors are published regularly in the official journal of the college, the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, and other professional journals.

Twice every year, the college organises symposia on topics of clinical interest, and every May it hosts a scientific meeting that is intended to sustain the practising anaesthetist's interest in and knowledge of the basic sciences, and the developments in these sciences that



Getting the measure right: Professor Pryor-Roberts in the operating theatre. However, the work goes beyond giving anaesthetics

can produce new benefits for patients.

● **Public education:** The patient having surgery is the focus of every anaesthetist's attention, and the college is now embarking on an extensive programme of public education. All patients and the parents of all children should receive expert guidance and accurate information to help them to understand what to expect before and after an operation.

The best way is for the anaesthetist to visit patients before the

proposed surgery, and to give them a personal description of what every patient hopes for, and which we hope to provide — a pleasant and painless process of going to sleep, a guarantee of unconsciousness during an operation under general anaesthesia, and, above all, a safe and painless recovery from surgery. These are the college's attainable goals.

● **Medical student education:** Although undergraduate education is the prime responsibility of medical schools within our universities, the

Royal College of Anaesthetists, which occupies its own premises at 48-49 Russell Square in central London, takes a special interest in fostering the education of medical students in many different areas, the most important of which is resuscitation, both mouth-to-mouth breathing and management of cardiac arrest.

Every doctor must be able to perform acute resuscitative measures for a patient whose heart or breathing has stopped. Medical students are taught

additional skills by anaesthetists. These skills include the management of acute and chronic pain, intubation of the windpipe and control of breathing in the unconscious patient, the use of a variety of drugs, and a taste of the more complex management of the severely ill patient in the intensive therapy unit.

● **Professor Pryor-Roberts, of the Sir Humphry Davy department of anaesthesia at the University of Bristol, is the immediate past vice-president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.**

Beating pain, with the patient's help

New ways are being found to ensure comfort after an operation



Professor Spence: "You used to have to live with pain"

Pain relief is a neglected part of post-operative management. Extraordinary though it may seem, the medical profession, on its own admission, has not been as good as it might have been at easing discomfort.

A report published in 1990 by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the College (now Royal College) of Anaesthetists was blunt in its criticism. The picture was one of "persistent failure", the report said.

Professor Alastair Spence, the president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, who chaired the report's working party, says: "I think the main message is that, until about the time of publication of the report, rather inadequate attention had been given to doing all that was possible to relieve pain after surgery. That

problem extends over many generations. It was just accepted that operations brought pain and you had to live with that until it was over. You got an injection but it was not necessarily timed at a particularly appropriate point in relation to the pain that you had."

The reasons for these failures are complex but may include, for example, fears by medical staff about patient addiction and respiratory depression. Those fears may have led to ineffective administration of drugs.

The conventional method of pain relief is injecting an opiate such as morphine into the muscle. However, other techniques and technologies are now available.

One of the most innovative

is so-called "patient-controlled analgesia", in which the patient administers the pain-killing drugs, using a machine that has been programmed by the doctor so that the infusion

rates are within safe limits. The patient presses a button for a shot of the drug, and the doctor sets the maximum dose and the lockout interval — the period after a dose during which any further demands will be ignored.

The machines are not cheap, costing about £2,000 on average, but have the enormous advantage of put-

ting the patient in control. That meets one of the main points made by the Spence report about traditional attitudes, the misconception among doctors and nurses

that they, rather than the patient, are the authority on the patient's pain. The report favours the technique because drug use "follows need."

"That is very useful because it gives us some indication of the analgesic requirements," Professor Hall says some doctors feel that because of the possibility of respiratory depression during self-administration there needs to be more nursing care than normal.

"There is a debate about this," he says. "It has been argued that the nursing needs are greater than the standard post-operative care on the ward."

Opiates, of course, however administered, cause nausea and vomiting. "A lot of people find nausea and vomiting worse than pain," Professor Hall says. "I have watched them down-titrate the mor-

phine because they would rather have some pain and no nausea than have very little pain and a lot of nausea."

Another technique that has come to the fore in the past five years is to block off the nerves from the site of the operation so that the pain "messages" from the operative site do not reach the brain. A common way of doing this is epidural analgesia.

A small catheter is introduced around the nerve roots at the spine and a cocktail of local anaesthetic and an opiate is pumped in. Local anaesthetics, such as bupivacaine, are effective but can have drawbacks given by themselves.

Bupivacaine, for example, becomes less efficacious with time. A tolerance towards it builds up and the dose has to be increased. In high concentrations it can also temporarily paralyse the muscles. Adding a small dose of opiate stops the tolerance to the local anaesthetic developing and means that a smaller dose of the anaesthetic can be given ruling out muscle paralysis.

The disadvantages are severe itching and a risk of respiratory depression but anaesthetists are using this technique to provide patients with painless recovery from abdominal surgery.

MALCOLM BROWN

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World leaders in child care

How is Britain pioneering infant research, asks

Malcolm Brown

The first lesson any medical student is taught about anaesthesia for children is that they differ physiologically from adults and they need different treatment.

Children have fewer reserves than adults, says Dr David Hatch, Professor of Paediatric Anaesthesia at the University of London's Institute of Child Health. Their organs function perfectly well as long as things do not go wrong, but once they start getting sick they have fewer reserves to call on. They are more susceptible to illness.

The same with anaesthesia, says the professor. "Its side effects could be more severe for children than they would be for a healthy teenager if you did not know the sensitivities of the child."

So a child is at greater risk than an adult when it is anaesthetised and it needs to be anaesthetised differently. Doctors are, for example,



Gentle touch: Dr David Hatch in his consulting room with some cuddly toys he uses to calm his small patients

more likely to use muscle relaxants on a very young baby and put it on a breathing machine than they would be with older patients. If a baby is allowed to breathe on its own and then given an anaesthetic

its breathing can become very shallow.

"Children are much more sensitive to the depressant effect of the anaesthetic gases on their breathing," Professor Hatch says. "Very often we can

accept a little bit of depression of respiration in an adult because they have still got enough reserve to be able to exchange their gases and breathe quite happily. But if you give a baby an anaesthetic

you will almost always have to accompany it by life support assistance, either putting them on a mechanical respirator or ventilating their lungs by hand with a bag which you squeeze."

Paediatric anaesthesia does not attract a lot of funding — Dr Hatch's chair is the first and so far only one of its kind in the country.

"We are among the leaders in research into infant respiratory physiology and in terms of clinical practice British anaesthesia is still among the best in the world," the professor says. "The number of overseas members we have recruited to the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists is very encouraging."

Paediatric anaesthesia is still a very small specialisation. The association has about 200 UK anaesthetists in membership, but bodies like the Royal College are keen to encourage more interest in it.

The National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPD) in 1989, which focused on deaths in children, said that the overall surgical and anaesthetic care of children was of a high standard, but recommended that anaesthetists and surgeons should not undertake occasional paediatric practice.

The Royal College now recommends that every district hospital should have an anaesthetist on the staff responsible for the organisation of anaesthetic services for children.

At the cutting edge of care

The UK has about 300 intensive care units, which between them treat about 100,000 people a year. Around 90 per cent of the units are managed by anaesthetists, Malcolm Brown writes.

The intensive care doctor needs to have an extensive knowledge of "sharp end" medicine, surgery and pharmacology, being able to monitor patients, take emergency action and know when to call in a specialist.

The RCA suggests that intensive care units are responsible for some of the most dramatic strides being made in medicine. The mortality rate of 60 per cent in the 1950s has been cut to 15 per cent in these units today, says the college.

There are many reasons for this, but anaesthetists say that two of the main ones are the advances in ventilation techniques and in the monitoring of the

heart and the circulation. All anaesthetists get some specialist training in intensive care in preparation for their fellowship exams. Beyond that, the training is not as formalised as it is in some other countries, such as America, where many doctors specialise entirely in intensive care.

There is a scheme in Britain under which senior registrars in medicine, surgery or anaesthesia may go on two year attachments to intensive care units,

but there is no formal qualification at the end. Surgeons, physicians and anaesthetists are now debating whether there should be a diploma in intensive care.

Intensive care is not regarded by many of its practitioners in this country as a lifetime's job. It is simply too demanding, and specialists often revert to their parent specialities.

This hurts me less than it hurts you

Doctors are learning how to deal with intractable pain

The common idea of pain is of something unpleasant but usually short-lived, Malcolm Brown writes. We suffer pain in childbirth, after an accident or an operation, or as a result of disease. Sometimes the pain subsides naturally, as in childbirth, or can be controlled or removed by curing the disease. But some pain persists. Anaesthetists have developed techniques to control or lessen the intensity of chronic pain.

Many hospitals now have pain clinics which deal solely with chronic pain. The idea started in the United States in the 1950s. Dr John J. Bonica set up the first clinic in Seattle.

Patients attending such pain clinics suffer from a wide variety of complaints, but perhaps the main groups to benefit, according to the Royal College of Anaesthetists, are those with prolonged pain following an operation, back pain sufferers and patients with cancer.

Although led by anaesthetists, most pain clinics are now multi-disciplinary, involving physiotherapists, physiologists, pharmacologists or even acupuncturists. Treatments range from medication and surgery to electrical stimulation of the nerves. The medications used are, by and large, not the classic painkillers. These will already have been used by GPs and other doctors and failed.

Instead, chronic pain specialists are turning to drugs used in other conditions. Two very useful preparations are carbamazepine (an anticonvulsant used in the treatment of epilepsy) and the antidepressant amitriptyline.

Chronic pain specialists also use nerve blocks in which anaesthesia is produced by blocking the passage of pain impulses in the sensory nerves supplying the affected part of the body.

Nerve block is used, for example, to ease the pain of pancreatic cancer and to treat the pain of peripheral vascular disease from which patients' legs can turn blue, cold and painful. Blocking the sympathetic nerves in the back can make the leg warmer and more comfortable.

Pain specialists are cautiously optimistic that in the not too distant future we may have some much more effective pain drugs. Dr Keith Budd, a

consultant anaesthetist at Bradford Royal Infirmary, thinks that in five years or so we may be seeing drugs which are "three or four generations on from morphine in their development and subtlety". They will be more effective and have fewer side effects.

Researchers are also exploring the use of "antagonists" of a number of the chemicals which transmit pain in the body. "There are antagonists to these chemicals which are already in trial," says Dr Budd. "They look very promising." Such antagonists should be useful not only in treating pain, but in preventing it occurring.

The most radical treatment for chronic pain is neurosurgery. One of the most widely used techniques, particularly for those

who have a tumour on one side of the body, is the so-called "percutaneous cordotomy". This selectively destroys the ascending pain pathways in the spinal cord.

"It is not analogous to cutting the whole spinal cord," says Dr Douglas Justins, director of the Pain Management Centre at St Thomas's Hospital, London. "You just leave this one area slightly numbed and pain free."

Not all chronic pain is wholly organic. In origin, some of the most interesting patients are those whose pain appears to have a significant psychological component. But pain is no less real or less distressing for being psychological, say the experts.

This is a very big category, and is becoming increasingly important in pain work," Dr Justins says. "A lot of pain clinics now employ clinical psychologists."

Treatments range from coping strategies (for example, relaxation training for those who get tension headaches) to pain management programmes, the intention of which is to get the patient functioning normally despite the pain.

One of the most valuable things the pain clinics give the patient is time, says Dr Justins. Many patients find a willing ear very comforting. "Even though you may not have anything to offer the patient other than time, that is still very helpful. The patient may say 'You are the first people who has believed in my pain,'" says Dr Justins.

Pain is no less distressing or real for being psychological

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Talented Gymcrak Tiger to scent winning trail again

GYMCRACK Tiger, second to Star Family Friend in a listed race at Ripon last time, can advertise the value of that form by taking the Claxton Bay Graduation Stakes at Pontefract today. He is my nap.

Star Family Friend has since run a fine third, beaten only a neck and a head, to White Shadow in a listed race at Ayr, and, just as significantly, the third at Ripon, Nominators, has gone on to win a listed race at Newmarket.

That evidence clearly underlines Gymcrack Tiger's chances today and the case for Peter Easterby's charge is further strengthened by the form of his debut win, also at Ripon.

On that occasion he beat Look Who's Here by three-quarters of a length, and Look Who's Here landed a competitive Haydock nursery more easily than the three-length margin indicated.

The principal doubt is that Gymcrack Tiger's two runs have been over six furlongs and he now moves back to

five. That, however, should be at least partially offset by the fact that Pontefract is one of the steepest courses in Britain and the uphill finish should suit him.

On his running behind Star Family Friend he comfortably held his advantage, while Sober Lad, who ran dismally last time, looks to have plenty to do having to concede upwards of 3lb all round.

The biggest danger could be Celestial Key, who is likely to improve substantially for his success over this course and distance in August.

Easterby and jockey Mark Birch can complete a double with Roar On Tour: the Maraval Handicap.

Although well beaten, in favour for a hot seven-furlong handicap at York last time, he returns to the mile trip over which he ran a good third to Insebab and Roseate Lodge at Ripon in August.

A reproduction of that run would put him in with an excellent chance here, particularly as the opposition will be less demanding than at York.

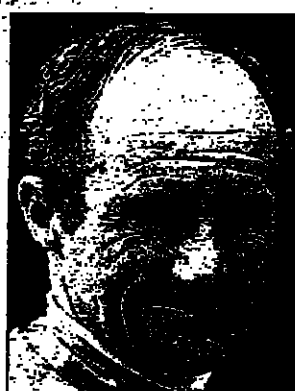
Easterby's brother, Mick, based at Sheriff Hutton, can also make his mark by taking the John Smith's Bitter Handicap with Penny Hassel, while Silvers Stalker can follow up his recent Ayr success

in the Trinidad and Tobago Handicap.

A typically autumnal card at Warwick sets backers posers aplenty. The Queen Bess Stakes is a particularly intriguing contest, in which Herora wins a narrow vote over Talb. Herora finished three-and-a-half lengths behind Talb when they were third and fourth to Tik Fa (a winner since over a mile at Doncaster last month, but this furlong shorter trip, plus a 3lb pull in the weights, can tip the scales in Herora's favour.

John Gosden drops Draft Board down ten furlongs after runs over ten furlongs and a mile. Her latest effort, when second to Galactic Miss over a mile at Kempton, suggests the move can pay dividends.

She showed plenty of early speed before fading in the closing stages and, with this her fourth outing, she is likely to have more scope for improvement than some largely exposed rivals.



Birch: strong chance of Pontefract double

Fine second for Sheikh Albadou

SHEIKH Albadou (Walter Swinburn) was beaten three-quarters of a length by Rubiano (Julie Krone) in the £63,830 Vosburgh Stakes, run over seven furlongs, on dirt at Belmont on Saturday.

Rubiano, winning for the eighth time in his last nine outings, was 8-5 favourite, coupled with his stable companion, Fly So Free.

Sheikh Albadou was sent off at 3-1 and paid 3.20 a place and 2.80 the show (1-2-3), both including \$2 stakes.

His next race is likely to be in the Breeders' Cup Sprint, at Gulfstream on October 31.

The Luca Cumani-trained Adam Smith finished last of six behind the Canadian-trained favourite, Sky Classic, in the £159,574 Turf Classic (12f) on the same card.

Swinburn was fourth on Tel Quel.

Henry Cecil's Perpendicular made all the running to capture the £98,246 Prix Zino Davidoff at Hoppetang, Berlin, on Saturday.

Rambo's Hall relishes rain as Glover completes treble

JEREMY Glover maintained his Midas touch in the William Hill Cambridgeshire on Saturday, Rambo's Hall giving his third success from three attempts in the big Newmarket handicap.

Rambo's Hall, winner of this event in 1989, found the inch of overnight rain heaven-sent, justifying 9-2 favourite to complete the stable treble, launched by Balthus in 1987.

Dean McKewin, already looking forward to making it a four-time for himself and Glover next year, said: "Rambo's Hall was always going to win - he was simply cruising throughout the race."

Striking the front a furlong out, the seven-year-old lengthened his stride decisively to beat Lester Piggott, still hunting his first Cambridgeshire, and Montpelier Boy by two-and-a-half lengths.

Double Endeavour came through to be third, a short head away, with Dawahhi fourth.

Rambo's Hall, who could sign off this term in the

November Handicap at Doncaster, is in his second spell under Glover's wing, having been sold for £100,000 to race in the United States after his first Cambridgeshire triumph.

He failed to make an impression in three starts over there and, after some haggling by Glover, returned for a bargain £25,000.

"When we got him back, he developed leg problems and had warts on his tendons, and it has taken a lot of work to get him right again," Glover said.

"There is no saying he can't do the same next year, as he's a very good horse, one I am very proud to be associated with."

Further Flight and Supreme Choice repeated last year's one-two for Barry Hills in the Jockey Club Cup with the 6-4 on favourite receiving star treatment from the racegoers.

"I've been coming here for years, and this is the first time I've noticed people clapping a horse - he's caught the public's imagination," said the Lambourn trainer.

The grey, pushing his earn-

ings to over £300,000 as the middle leg of Hills' first treble of the campaign, will next go for either Newbury's St Simon Stakes or the Prix Royal-Oak at Longchamp.

Luca Cumani, who stands to lose more than most if the Maktoum family slims down operations in Newmarket, came up with a timely tonic for Sheikh Mohammed when Red Slippers held off Feminine Wiles in the Cheveley Park Stud Stakes.

The principals bumped inside the final furlong but Red Slippers, who fended off her rival by a head, kept the prize following a stewards' enquiry.

The outcome was not so good for the runner-up's rider, Piggott, who received a four-day ban for careless riding, starting October 12.

Geoff Lewis, the Epsom trainer, saddled a 9-4 double at Goodwood with Plan Ahead and Rich Midas.

Peter Hedger's Kilcash, backed from 9-2 to 11-4, beat Absalom's Lady a length in the Free Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow.

MANDARIN		THUNDER	
2.20 Isle Of Innisfree.	2.20 Balfour.	2.20 Balfour.	2.20 Balfour.
2.20 Big Bat.	2.20 Big Bat.	2.20 Big Bat.	2.20 Big Bat.
2.20 Parry Hassel.	2.20 Parry Hassel.	2.20 Parry Hassel.	2.20 Parry Hassel.
2.20 Silfennas Stakes.	2.20 Silfennas Stakes.	2.20 Silfennas Stakes.	2.20 Silfennas Stakes.
2.20 Kise In The Dark.	2.20 Kise In The Dark.	2.20 Kise In The Dark.	2.20 Kise In The Dark.
2.20 GYMCRACK TIGER (nap).	2.20 GYMCRACK TIGER (nap).	2.20 GYMCRACK TIGER (nap).	2.20 GYMCRACK TIGER (nap).
2.20 Roar On Tour.	2.20 Roar On Tour.	2.20 Roar On Tour.	2.20 Roar On Tour.

RICHARD EVANS: 2.20 Just A Mirage.
3.20 SAMSON-AGOMISTES (nap). 4.50 Gymcrack Tiger.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 Big Bat. 4.20 Benevolent.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(4) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(5) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(6) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(7) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(8) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(9) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

2.50 BUCCOO REEF SELLING STAKES (£2,511: 1m 4f) (13 runners)	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(4) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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(9) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

3.20 JOHN SMITH'S BITTER HANDICAP (£3,980: 5f) (18 runners)	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

4.50 CLAXTON BAY GRADUATION STAKES	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(4) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(5) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(6) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(7) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(8) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(9) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

5.20 MARVAL HANDICAP (£2,973: 1m 4f) (22 runners)	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(4) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(5) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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10.40 NOTARY-NOWELL	
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(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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12.40 NOTARY-NOWELL	
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(3) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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(9) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

3.50 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HANDICAP	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

4.20 CARON NURSERY HANDICAP	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
(2) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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5.00 ARDEN STAKES	
(1) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82
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6.00 ARDEN STAKES	
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(10) 0-5 ALBANY 10 (M) (Jockey) M J Codd 9-0	G Duffell 82

16	14	0000	BAY HESSE 14 (M) (C) in Chappell 7-11	Amendell 8-11	87
17	16	0050	BOWY PRINCESS 27 (M) (J) Laid J Bessett 7-9	L. Channon	87
18	12	4000	DESHANES 25 (Stable Hand At Malvern) A Scott 7-7	N Kennedy 3-7	95
19	03	000	ARMS BRIDGE 39 (Eleventh At Long Jockey Construction) M Best 7-7	J. Cullen	86

over handicaps: Bessett 7-5, Miles Bridge 7-4.

SETTINGS: 11-2: Exports Malvern, 8-1 Home Colliers, Kim in The Dam, 8-1 Baseville, Boldville Bash, Packer
Hawley: 12-1 Public Way, 15-1 others.

1991: ELEGANT TOUCH 8-7 A Cruz (8-7) M Atkinson 19 ms

FORM FOCUS

Dalglish delighted to be reaping rich dividends



Shearer: class display

Blackburn Rovers 7
Norwich City 1

By CLIVE WHITE

WHO said money can't buy success? Whatever problems Alex Ferguson may be having making his multi-million pound investment over six years pay off at Manchester United, Kenny Dalglish must be more delighted with his quick return on Jack Walker's money just up the road at Blackburn Rovers.

Next week will be the first anniversary of Dalglish's appointment as manager at Ewood Park and, in that time, he has transformed a second division club with a nasty

habit for last-minute capitulation into a genuine championship contender — a fact that Blackburn underlined on Saturday by usurping the league leaders.

Never before, surely, was one so unceremoniously unseated.

Parallels with United are unavoidable and not just for geographical reasons. Both managers have spent fortunes — Ferguson £16 million, Dalglish £11 million — in pursuit of the same goal, the championship.

This summer, both homed in on the same player who they thought would add the finishing touch — in more ways than one — to those pretensions.

Alan Shearer, the player in question, favoured a move to Old Trafford but when Ferguson, the big spender, was required to be that little bit more extravagant than ever before, the Scot, perhaps overcome by a moment's thriftiness, balked at Southampton's asking price of £3.6 million.

Dalglish, also a Scot but suffering no such relapse into traditional traits, stumped up the money — well, Walker's money, at least.

With that bit of business done and not done, the championship may have been won and lost.

Of course, it is by no means certain that United, whose build-ups tend to be more

intricate, with the ball knocked into feet for forwards, would have played to Shearer's strengths quite as deliberately as Blackburn do and therefore, perhaps, might not have reaped the same dividends.

It was a classic Shearer performance against Norwich, full of aggressive running, selfless support and lethal finishing.

Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, once he had recovered from his shell shock, said that Shearer was an even better player than the one Southampton knew.

"He used to do bits and pieces," he said, "but now... He gave us problems all on his own."

"Mind you, I think he conspires into a few free kicks but that's clever."

Burnerworth, his marker, was outplayed. In laying on two goals for Wegerle and one for himself before half-time, Shearer outpaced, outthought and finally out-thought the Norwich central defender — as well as Gunn, the goalkeeper — with an impudent chip.

Even the introverted Dalglish could not contain his joy on the touchline as Blackburn, plus a header from Sherwood against his former club and minus a clinically executed goal from Newman, went in 4-1 ahead at the break.

But what pleased Dalglish

most of all was that Blackburn kept on scoring in the second half.

It was one of those days when just about everything Blackburn hit went in: a superb Cowans free kick, a Ripley drive and, finally, a Shearer header for his thirteenth goal.

Wegerle still managed to put forward an entry for "miss of the season" when he contrived to fail twice in quick succession from just six yards out.

It was also one of those days from Norwich's point of view, when they returned to their soft, over-elaborate bad old ways of last season.

"If you don't compete, that's what happens," Walker

remarked. Right now, he must feel as if he could do with some of his namesake's money.

"If they have got a weakness anywhere, they just go out and buy the best player and plug it," he said.

Dalglish makes no attempt to disguise the fact that he has been fortunate enough to be able to buy a team. And success? "It depends who's making the decisions," he said.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: R. Morris, R. Brown, A. Wright, T. Sherwood, C. Henry, M. Moran (sub: V. Marshall), S. Ripley (sub: J. Wilcock), M. Adams, A. Shearer, R. Wegerle, G. Cowans.
NORWICH CITY: B. Gunn, J. Cuthbertson, M. Bowen, I. Bunterworth, C. Sutton, D. Smith, I. Crook, R. Newman, J. Rogers, J. Gaze, D. Phillips (sub: L. Power).
Referee: R. Dicks.

Increasing worries are taxing Everton

Oldham Athletic 1
Everton 0

By IAN ROSS

THE problems that have beset Liverpool in recent weeks have been publicised to such a degree that the demise of Merseyside's other club, Everton, has gone almost unnoticed.

After a promising opening to a season that will shape the future of Howard Kendall, the team manager, Everton are sinking with the speed of a pebble casually tossed over the side of a River Mersey ferry. The club's sixth defeat in seven games might have been heavier but for the poor finishing of the Oldham forwards.

A fixture which, in the past, has provided football of vision and commitment said more about the problems that confront Everton than ever could the articulate Kendall. Kendall led Everton to two league championships during the Eighties but his attempts to prove wrong those who derided as foolish his decision to return to Goodison Park for a second spell as manager have been undermined by a lack of finance and, subsequently, a lack of genuine quality within a team that is competent but devoid of flair.

Inevitably, Oldham's defence was in generous, almost benevolent, mood, yet Everton's forwards — Rideout and Johnston — were unable to profit. Indeed, the latter was so ineffective that one had to question the wisdom of omitting Cotte, another player who is plagued by inconsistency but has a more voracious appetite for hard work.

Oldham often committed as

many as eight players to attack and, as much by weight of numbers as by skill, they created sufficient chances during the opening 30 minutes to have rendered the second half an irrelevant formality.

All seemed set fair in the ninth minute when the home side's incessant pressure was rewarded with the goal which was to ultimately decide the issue. Henry's corner was driven with such unerring accuracy, and with such force, that Sharp needed to apply only the slightest of touches with his head to deliver the ball in the path of Jobson, who displayed a callous disregard for his own safety by diving in between two defenders to dispatch a firm header.

Thereafter, Everton threatened to buckle each and every time Oldham crossed the half-way line but, fortunately for them, Marshall leading his side's attack for the first time in ten months, chose to squander the sort of opportunities that even the hapless Johnston would have found difficult to spurn.

After a desolate opening half, Everton's football improved appreciably but an increase in the share of possession only served to underline the inadequacy of their forwards. It was simply not to be Everton's day as Watson was forced to discover three minutes before the final whistle when he swept Wargytha's exquisite cross goalwards only for his shot to strike the rumbling frame of Jobson.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC: J. Hallworth, S. Richmond, N. Poulton, H. Henry, R. Jobson, J. Marshall, G. Hall, I. Oliver, G. Sharp, M. Wilson, P. Bennett.
EVERTON: H. Southall, A. Harper, A. Hendrick, J. Eborall, D. Watson, G. Adlett, R. Wargytha, S. Morris, P. Rideout, M. Johnston (sub: A. Cotte), P. Radosavjevic (sub: P. Beagrie).
Referee: P. Don.

Slaven shows how it should be done

Middlesbrough 1
Manchester United 1

By PETER BALL

A LACK of firepower cost Manchester United their place in the Uefa Cup last Tuesday. Unless it is rectified quickly, it could cost them the even greater prize of the Premier League championship.

On Saturday they at least broke their duck, but it took a defender to do so. Ironically after Tuesday's exit in Moscow on penalties, it came from the spot. Steve Bruce's goal earning them a point at Ayrshire Park. But even Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, admitted that with reasonable finishing United could have taken all three points.

They have scored only 12 goals in 11 league games, and the failure to find the money to buy Alan Shearer in the summer is looking increasingly unforgivable.

"They're devastating on the break," Lawrence said. "They move the ball so quickly, they had three or four opportunities where they had cut us to pieces, but they failed to finish."

Hughes missed twice after rounding the goalkeeper, although the sodden pitch, which had the players skidding and sliding, offered some excuse. Kanchelskis, whose speed could have exploited the conditions, was not given the chance to do so until ten minutes from time.

Hughes, whose unhappy afternoon was complete when

he was substituted, had no luck either, the referee, Mike Reed, ignoring a blatant trip by Morris which should have brought United their second penalty just before Middlesbrough's equaliser. Perhaps Reed, who had an inconsistent afternoon all round, felt one penalty was enough.

There had been no doubt about the one he did give on the stroke of half-time after Gigg had held the ball while Irwin set off on a run which took him beyond Morris. Gittens, who had been called in when Kernaghan ricked his neck in the warm-up, arrived in time to send Irwin crashing. "We were five yards down everywhere and then there was a rash challenge," Lawrence said.

Bruce, who had missed one of the penalties in Moscow, made no mistake in less pressured surroundings. In the next few minutes United could have made the game safe, but Hughes missed a glorious chance, and as the conditions took their toll on tired limbs, Middlesbrough battled their way back.

With Pallister in outstanding form, United resisted strongly. Slaven saw one effort come back off a post but he does not miss many and when he found space again he celebrated his recall to the Republic of Ireland squad by leaving Schmeichel helpless.

MIDDLESBROUGH: I. Ronalds, C. Morris, J. Phillips, J. White, A. Preece, Slaven, R. Mudge, P. Wilkinson, J. Pollack (sub: J. Hendrick), I. Wright.
MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Schmeichel, D. Irwin, M. Preece (sub: A. Kanchelskis), S. Bruce, D. Pegg, G. Faldo, C. Bailey, P. Ince, B. McCull, M. Hughes (sub: B. Robinson), R. Gigg.
Referee: M. Reed.



Midfield duel: Radosavjevic, of Everton, and Jobson, of Oldham Athletic, spare nothing in their challenge

Atkinson chips in amid Villa's mastery

Wimbledon 2
Aston Villa 3

By NICHOLAS HARLING

ON A day of 40 goals in the Premier League, none could have surpassed that with which Dalian Atkinson made certain of Aston Villa's fifth successive victory. It was, as it turned out, just as well for Villa that Atkinson had somehow managed to weave his way through four challenges since Clarke's subsequent goal for Wimbledon came uncomfortably close to giving the home side hope of snatching an unmerited draw from an entertaining game.

Had Villa left Selhurst Park with anything but their full quota of points, it would have been grossly unjustified. Their early one-touch play was

delightful, fully deserving of the two-goal lead, which came with the latest brace from Saunders, who has now scored six in the three games since his arrival. Having showed their quality in attack, Villa answered most of the questions asked of their defence during a stirring second-half rally from Wimbledon.

It was significant that, despite his side's three excellent goals, Ron Atkinson should still single out a central defender, Teale, as his side's most accomplished performer. He dismissed Dalian Atkinson's run on goal, from inside his own half which finished with an impudent chip over Segers, with: "He scores hundreds like that. I've tried to stop him doing it."

The manager also pointed to the Villa philosophy. "We knew it wouldn't be easy," he

said. "It was the type of game in which we had to be brave, not brave enough to risk getting our eyebrows split, but brave enough to keep playing our way." And how well Villa succeeded. Both the goals from Saunders followed lengthy passing movements, while Atkinson's was the type of individual goal that used to be the hallmark of Greaves.

The shame was that in making the first goal for Saunders with a cross that simply begged to be buried, Froggatt took a heavy knock that eventually forced him off. Fitzgerald was the culprit but it was the second cynical challenge on Froggatt, from Earle, that brought the Wimbledon player the first of three bookings in the match.

With Jones suspended and Fashanu lasting only 25 minutes before aggravating his

groin strain, Wimbledon fought back without either of their real hard men, or Holdsworth, who faces a hernia operation. It said much of their pluck that they should respond so ably to the second goal from Saunders, on the half-hour, after a lovely exchange with Houghton.

By half-time, Newhouse, the substitute, had deflected in a shot from Miller, Clarke, the original provider, was at the heart of most of Wimbledon's near things in the second half before deservedly scoring with a snorting left-footer. Even more deservedly, Villa held on for the remaining few seconds.

WIMBLEDON: H. Segers, W. Barton, G. Earle, P. Miller, J. Scott, S. Fitzgerald, N. Andry, P. Teale, J. Fashanu (sub: A. Newhouse), L. Sanchez, A. Clarke.
ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, E. Barnett, S. Saunders, S. Teale, P. McGlothlin, Richardson, R. Houghton, G. Parker, D. Saunders, D. Adson, S. Froggatt (sub: D. Clarke).
Referee: S. Lodge.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Wkly chg		P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O Bkg	Home attendance Avg 92-3 % chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match
1 (+1)	Blackburn	11	24	+13	7 (5-2)	3 (0-3)	1 (1-0)	24 (17-7)	9 (5-4)	Shearer 12, Ripley 3	2 12	17,722 +33.7	wwdww	A Villa (a 19/10)
2 (-1)	Norwich	11	23	+1	7 (4-3)	2 (1-1)	2 (0-2)	20 (9-12)	19 (3-16)	Robins 6, Phillips 5	- 5	13,847 -0.1	wwwrdl	QPR (h 17/10)
3 (0)	Coventry	11	21	+4	6 (2-4)	3 (2-1)	2 (2-0)	14 (8-6)	10 (7-3)	Williams 4	- 7	14,063 +1.3	wwwddd	Everton (a 17/10)
4 (+1)	QPR	11	20	+7	5 (3-2)	5 (3-2)	1 (0-1)	17 (13-4)	10 (7-3)	Ferdinand 4, Sinton 3	- 15	14,560 +7.1	ddwdhw	Norwich (a 17/10)
5 (+1)	A Villa	11	19	+6	5 (2-3)	4 (2-2)	2 (1-1)	20 (10-10)	14 (7-7)	Saunders 7, Atkinson 6	- 7	24,231 -2.4	lwdwww	Blackburn (h 19/10)
6 (-2)	Man Utd	11	19	+4	5 (2-3)	4 (2-2)	2 (1-1)	12 (4-8)	8 (4-4)	Hughes/Bruce 3	- 9	31,585 -29.8	wwwddd	Liverpool (h 18/10)
7 (+7)	Arsenal	11	17	+2	5 (4-1)	2 (0-2)	4 (2-2)	14 (9-5)	12 (7-5)	Wright 7, Merson 2	- 18	24,357 -23.7	dlldhw	Nottm For (a 17/10)
8 (+2)	Ipswich	11	16	+2	3 (2-1)	7 (4-3)	1 (0-1)	16 (10-6)	14 (7-7)	Wark 5, Kwomya 3	1 13	17,906 +25.4	ddwdhw	Chelsea (a 17/10)
9 (-2)	Middlesbro	10	15	+5	4 (3-1)	3 (2-1)	3 (1-2)	19 (13-6)	14 (7-7)	Wilkinson 5, Slaven 4	- 9	18,088 +23.0	ddwdld	Tottenham (a 17/10)
10 (-2)	Leeds	11	14	+1	3 (3-0)	5 (2-3)	3 (0-3)	19 (12-7)	18 (4-14)	Carlton/Chapman 6	- 11	27,806 -5.6	dddldw	Sheff Utd (h 17/10)
11 (+4)	Oldham	11	14	0	3 (3-0)	5 (2-3)	3 (1-2)	19 (13-6)	19 (9-10)	Sharp 4	- 10	11,993 -20.5	dlldhw	Sheff Wed (a 17/10)
12 (-3)	Chelsea	11	13	0	3 (1-2)	4 (3-1)	4 (1-3)	14 (4-10)	14 (4-10)	Harford 5	- 13	20,959 +12.2	wlwdl	Ipswich (h 17/10)
13 (-2)	Man City	11	12	0	3 (1-2)	3 (3-0)	5 (2-3)	13 (9-4)	13 (9-4)	White 7, Vokk 2	1 10	24,863 -10.2	wlwdl	C Palace (a 17/10)
14 (-2)	Sheff Wed	11	12	-2	3 (2-1)	3 (1-2)	5 (2-3)	13 (8-5)	15 (8-7)	Hirst 5, Bright 2	- 9	26,180 -11.4	lhwld	Oldham (h 17/10)
15 (-3)	Everton	11	12	-3	3 (1-2)	3 (2-1)	5 (2-3)	10 (2-8)	13 (5-8)	Beardley 3	- 3	23,248 +0.4	lhwld	Coventry (h 17/10)
16 (+3)	Liverpool	11	12	-4	3 (3-0)	3 (1-2)	5 (2-3)	14 (8-6)	18 (10-8)	Walters/Molby 3	- 11	32,942 -5.3	dlldhw	Man Utd (a 18/10)
17 (+3)	Sheff Utd	11	12	-4	3 (3-0)	3 (2-1)	5 (1-4)	11 (8-3)	15 (6-9)	Deane 4	- 19	20,297 -8.1	ddldhw	Leeds (a 17/10)
18 (-2)	Southmptn	11	10	-5	2 (1-1)	4 (2-2)	5 (2-3)	9 (4-5)	14 (5-9)	Le Tissier 3, Dowie 2	1 15	15,727 +11.8	dlldwl	Wimbledon (h 17/10)
19 (-2)	Tottenham	11	10	-10	2 (2-0)	4 (2-2)	4 (1-3)	9 (7-2)	19 (6-13)	Durie/Sherringham 3	1 12	26,351 -5.1	wlwdl	Middlesbro (h 17/10)
20 (-1)	C Palace	11	9	-4	1 (0-1)	6 (3-3)	4 (2-2)	15 (8-7)	19 (10-9)	Armstrong/McGoldnick 4	1 10	13,635 -22.6	ldldw	Man City (h 17/10)
21 (-3)	Wimbledon	11	9	-4	2 (1-1)	3 (1-2)	6 (4-2)	14 (7-7)	18 (10-8)	Holdsworth/Earle 3	1 13	6,550 -5.1	lhwld	Soton (a 17/10)
22 (0)	Nottm For	10	6	-11	1 (1-0)	3 (1-2)	6 (2-4)	10 (3-7)	21 (5-16)	Bannister 4	- 6	19,176 -19.2	ldldd	Arsenal (h 17/10)

TRANSFERS: Predrag Radosavjevic (Everton) from St Louis Storm, £100,000. LOANS: David McDonald (Tottenham) to Brentford.

□ All statistics refer to Premier League matches only



LOOKS p5
How the coat
came back to
life: a long
story



LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY OCTOBER 5 1992

MODERN TIMES p6

Danger man:
Michael
Jackson in
Bucharest



Put drama in your life

The curtain rises
on an exciting
offer to Times
readers

Today *The Times* launches a new club, The Theatre Club, and at the same time offers readers the chance to visit any one of 200 theatres throughout the country with two tickets for the price of one.

Germany may have more opera houses, the Mediterranean more open-air cinemas, but Britain leads the field for the number and variety of its theatres. They can be long and narrow, converted from canal boats; in basements, in tents, up mountains of stairs; but the majority are the landmark buildings that adorn prime sites in all our cities and major towns.

In England, lowland Scotland and coastal Wales you are never far from a theatre. In America many communities are hundreds of miles from their nearest theatre, and some people never see the outside of one, let alone the inside. As numerous and as varied as the shows our theatres put on — thrillers, classics, farce, musicals, comedies old and new, Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, reopening the restored Theatre Royal in Norwich next month.



Blair Wilson and Jennifer Chase in *Carmen Jones*

was written 400 years ago: Alan Ayckbourn completed his latest, *Time of My Life*, a few days before it opened in Scarborough last April.

Whenever a lavishly mounted production, generally a musical, collapses within a few weeks of its opening, the word goes round that the theatre is in crisis. Figures compiled for the Society of West End Theatre tell a different story. Attendances this year are 4 per cent up on 1991 and only 2 per cent down on the boom year of 1990. The death of theatre, like the end of the world, is often foretold but never arrives.

Broadly speaking, our theatres are of two kinds: producing theatres, mounting their own shows, and receiving theatres, taking them in from elsewhere. Both kinds are represented in The Theatre Club's opening offer. In Scotland the foremost producing theatres are the Glasgow Citizens and the Edinburgh Lyceum, with Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre (now in handsome new premises) the leader for smaller-scale shows. North Wales has Theatr Cymru at Mold, South Wales the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.

In England theatregoers in Greater Manchester, the Midlands and, of course, London are spoiled for choice. They are well served in West Yorkshire and Liverpool. Among the receiving houses the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, takes in the Royal Shakespeare Company every winter after its Stratford season.

JEREMY KINGSTON
TURN TO PAGE 4

There you will find details of how to obtain two tickets for the price of one — and how to join The Theatre Club

When the chaps won't have it

The 1922 Committee can make or break a Tory prime minister.
Ronald Butt looks at its role

Ten days after the Conservative conference ends, the prime minister and members of the cabinet will be present at celebrations of an event in Tory history which has peculiar significance in the party's present circumstances. October 19 is the 70th anniversary of a meeting of all Conservative MPs at the Carlton Club which, defying the party's leaders, repudiated the coalition with Lloyd George's Liberals and provided the inspiration for the powerful and independent organisation of all Tory back benches, known ever since as the 1922 Committee.

Tory opinion had become intensely hostile to Lloyd George. He was deeply distrusted, there were policy differences and (over-riding the Conservative foreign secretary, Lord Curzon) he had recently brought Britain almost to the brink of war with Turkey. Lloyd George made the government look more like a one-man band than a coalition with a Conservative majority. Yet the Tory leaders had still agreed to go as a coalition into another general election — despite warnings that many independent Tory candidates would stand.

To prevent the threatened split, Austin Chamberlain, the Tory leader, decided to call a special meeting of all Conservative MPs to obtain a specific endorsement of a continued coalition. In a letter telling his fellow-coalitionists, Lord Birkenhead, that such a meeting might be necessary, he said that he had in mind to tell the MPs "bluntly that they must either follow our advice or do without us, in which case they must find their own Chief and form a Government at once. They would be in a d-d fix".

In the event, it was Chamberlain and the other leaders who were in the fix. The party voted overwhelmingly to "do without" them. The principal argument advanced for continuing the coalition was that without it (the Liberals being split into two factions) Labour might edge into power. But on the morning of the crucial meeting, the news arrived that a by-election at Newport had been won by an independent Tory candidate called Reginald Clarry, with Labour second and the coalition Liberal at the bottom of the poll. The Tories could win on their own.

So when Chamberlain opened the meeting with a speech which Leo Amery described afterwards as "dictatorial in tone", his argument that only the coalition could save the nation provoked cries of dissent. The little-known Stanley Baldwin then marked himself as future leader by a passionate attack on Lloyd George as a "great dynamic force" who would destroy the Tories as he had the Liberals. But the decisive voice was that of Bonar Law, the former Tory leader, retired because of illness.

Many Tories, including Curzon,

had urged him to intervene against the coalition. The editor of *The Times*, Wickham Steed, had also written to warn Law that unless he did so "there would be no hope of maintaining the cohesion of the party". Law finally decided that (as he told the meeting) "if we follow Austin Chamberlain's advice our party will be broken... it will be a repetition of what happened after Peel passed the Corn Laws". To Law, the party's unity was paramount.

So the meeting voted by 185 to 88 against the coalition. Lloyd George immediately resigned as prime minister and Chamberlain as Conservative leader. The other Tory coalitionists went with him. In their place was installed what Churchill called the second eleven. Law became prime minister, the Tories won the next election with a large overall majority and within months Baldwin was prime minister in place of the mortally ill Bonar Law.



Out: Lloyd George

The new parliament included many Tories who had never been MPs before and a group of them (including Mr Clarry) set up the back bench 1922 Committee. Its purpose was to "render every assistance to the government and the party whips in their efforts to carry on the affairs of the nation upon the sound basis of Conservative principles".

The phrase I have italicised seems almost to imply warning that support might not be given to a government which, in the committee's view, was not so acting. At all events this spirit has been the one governing the parliamentary Conservative party ever since. At first the 1922 was simply a committee of some Tory MPs. But its influence grew and in 1925 it was extended to include all Tory back benches. (A suggestion that the reference to "1922" should be dropped from its title was rejected.) When the party is in power no ministers may attend its weekly meetings. But a whip is always present to provide a channel through which worries in the party can be conveyed to the government. The chairman of the 1922 always has access to the prime minister when it is necessary.

It is sometimes assumed that governments with their patronage, their whips and their threats of resigning on votes of confidence, can always count their followers. Yet in the Conservative party, the decisive power in a crisis lies with the back benches — with the same 1922 that broke Austin Chamberlain and now has the formal power to elect the leader.

It was the 1922 that ousted Edward Heath and made Margaret Thatcher leader, and it was the support of the 1922 that sustained her during her early years when she led a cabinet still stuffed with hostile ministers hankering after a return to Heathian policies. The back benches supported her because their majority agreed that



The power of the 1922 Committee: Chamberlain (left) resigned as Conservative leader, and Law became prime minister

there was no alternative to her policies except a return to those previously discredited. But eventually economic recession and the unpopular poll tax created the political climate in which she, too, was removed, after her apparently unconstructive way of handling the European Community provided a trigger.

The MPs of the 1922 listen to their constituents and respond "on the sound basis of Tory principles" and in the light of their own convictions. Sometimes they are frustrated. Great discontent with Harold Macmillan was expressed in the 1922 over his handling of the Profumo affair, his government's unpopular pay policy and his sacking of a third of the cabinet. But the issues were not fundamental enough to risk splitting the party, though the open criticism of his leadership probably put him in the frame of mind to see the opportunity afforded by temporary ill-health to retire soon after.

In the choice of his successor the 1922 was probably the principal influence: its executive voted decisively (in secret) for Lord Home after taking soundings. As the 1922 Committee chairman is reputed to have warned Rab Butler:

"The chaps won't have you." So, too, it was made clear to David Mellor recently, in a very different context, that the chaps of the 1922 wouldn't have him either, however much he clung to the prime minister's support. The political antennae of the 1922 are practised in registering the reactions of those they represent.

The 1922 also exerts influence on policy as well as over the fate of ministers and it has fought many vigorous battles to try to resist or amend legislation. When these do not concern fundamental matters, they usually end in some sort of compromise which does not wholly undermine the government's wishes, though a prime minister is usually wise to heed warnings from the 1922, as Mrs Thatcher should have done over the poll tax.

But the campaign being waged against the prime minister's intention to persist with the Maastricht treaty is different. The concern about the constitutional implications touch the fundamental principles of the party. Most of those who are worried are not "anti-Europe". They wish to stay in the community and in the single market. But they do not believe that either the British right to opt out of full monetary

union or the concept of "subsidiarity" (a "philosophical" rather than a "legal-constitutional" concept, as an impartial Commons library briefing sagely put it) is safeguarded enough against federalism.

There are times in the life of any party when an issue cannot be fudged. Perhaps as many as half the Tory party want sufficient guarantees for the preservation of national sovereignty against a super state to be clearly attached to the treaty. If Mr Major is to avoid a dangerous split in his party he must

come to a clear, candid and convincing understanding with them about what Maastricht is to mean.

The prime minister will this week listen to the Tory grass-roots at Brighton. But in the end it is the 1922 that he has to satisfy. It is the real source of the government's power between general elections. The events that brought the 1922 into being are a warning of the danger of ignoring this reality. The committee's special anniversary could hardly have fallen in a more appropriate year.

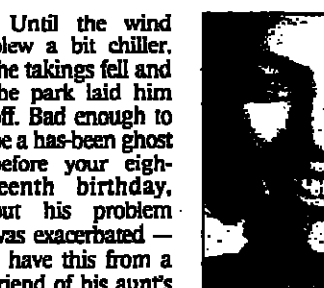
A ghost of a chance of sympathy

With three liquidations and 40 redundancies an hour, you can get compassion-fatigue. But as this cold gale continues to sweep the working scene, I heard one particularly poignant tale.

It concerns a teenager, until lately employed in an amusement park. His proud first job, until the recession deepened, was on the staff of the Haunted Castle. To be precise, his brief was to stand behind the door while the public were ushered in, to utter low moaning cries and occasionally to stroke an unsuspecting nape or bare arm with a rubber glove artfully filled with crushed ice.

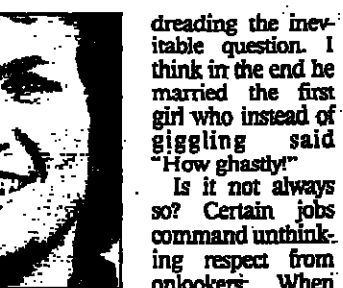
He was good at the job, conscientious and inventive. He always remembered a Thermos of crushed ice to refill the glove mid-morning, practised his moaning at home and voluntarily extended his work responsibilities by devising an imitation cobweb to be held in the other hand and fluttered across the paying public's faces. He also took a first-aid course, in case the cobweb worked too well. And so for two years, day after summer day, the lad stood at his post in the darkness, glad to be earning his keep — unlike most of his friends — and looking forward to another winter of at least part-time work, touching up the skulls with luminous paint and putting new elastic

WORKING LIFE: Libby Purves asks why some jobs are considered a joke



Until the wind blew a bit chillier, the takings fell and the park laid him off. Bad enough to be a has-been ghost before your eighteenth birthday, but his problem was exacerbated — I have this from a friend of his aunt's — by the fact that whenever he told anybody, they fell about laughing. Even at the Jobcentre the girl giggled at his account of his previous responsibilities. At the YTS they said "I suppose you'll need ghost training, ha ha".

The boy responded with gloomy silence. He had been inside the job, and knew that it had its small but significant share of technique and dignity. Nothing had been scammed. He had never once been late, and the cobweb had been entirely his idea. Now, left broke and bored, he had to face everybody laughing at the idea of a redundant ghost: he must have felt like the man in the Graham Greene story whose father was killed when a pig fell on his head,



dreading the inevitable question: "I think in the end he married the first girl who instead of giggling said 'How ghastly?' Is it not always so? Certain jobs command unthinking respect from onlookers. When shipyard workers or nurses or miners are laid off, the press and public murmur of tragedy, lost tradition and skills down the waste-pipe. They elevate the redundant ones to glorious, statuesque tragedy like one of those effigies of Workers Breaking Chains which stand in Third World communist marketplaces. But when a circus makes its fire-eater redundant due to new public health regulations, headline-writers vie for the most flip response. Unfair.

Not a laugh, but a knowing sneer, greets another kind of job loss: the collapse of any business which puritanical Britons see as frivolous. The cold recessionary wind has blown off a lot of fairly ludicrous froth since 1989, and

vanished unremembered. What scope is there now for girls to dress up as promotional dancing cigarette-packets?

There are other kinds of frivolity. We know people who used to run shooting weekends for companies looking for classy corporate hospitality. Our friends did it very well, met a demand, and worked long hours: it was not their fault that suddenly no company can afford to chuck money up the wall in this pointless manner, and they went out of business. So did those other 1980s countryfolk, the "relocation agents" who in the now unthinkable property-grab boom, used to snap up houses for distant buyers sight unseen.

But do you feel the same about their staff as you do about shipyard workers and nurses? Of course you don't. Not even if I revealed that the cancelled ship was mainly going to carry Taiwanese dangle-dollies, or that the nurse worked exclusively on facelifts? Probably not. We are talking, here, about knee-jerk sympathy: some workers are dignified and others are a joke. Alas for the unrecognised grief of the laid-off sagger-maker's bottom-knocker! Weep for the redundant Roly-polygram!

The moral of modern working life is that when you're laid off the roundabouts, you'd better make straight for the swings. And keep smiling.

I.Q. 145 and Can't Remember?

A FAMOUS international publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

The details of this method are described in his fascinating booklet, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request.

According to this publisher, many people do not realise how much they can influence others simply by remembering accurately everything they see, hear or read. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate each situation simply by your ability to remember.

For example, you need never forget another appointment — ever! You can learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. Whole books and plays will be indelibly imprinted on your memory after a single reading. You'll be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you will never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you will be more poised and self-confi-



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EXPIRED 150

Kander and Ebb's latest musical, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, is about to hit London. Clive Davis watched the show in Toronto, and talked to its creators

Prison is a cabaret, old chum

Just as every modern city has its McDonald's, so it sometimes seems any metropolis worthy of the name has played host to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*. Toronto this summer was no exception. Theatre-goers queued for the stage equivalent of a Big Mac big and gaudy and strangely lacking in substance. Yet the most impassioned conversation in the city's theatrical circles concerned the world premiere of another musical, a decidedly unorthodox mix of stark realism and camp fantasy, a show set in a brutal South American prison, with a story about a gay window dresser and his cell-mate, a left-wing revolutionary.

On the face of it, it is the sort of musical that is guaranteed to enjoy the shortest of runs. Not so this time. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, an adaptation of Manuel Puig's ambitious, multi-layered novel (later turned into a successful film) may turn out to be the hit of the season when it opens in London this week.

The production rests partly on the commercial track record of the production team. Hal Prince (who also directed *Phantom*) is not known for hitching his name to flops. Nor is the librettist Terrence McNally, author of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. *Kiss* also boasts an old-fashioned, larger-than-life star in Chita Rivera, the actress and singer who shot to fame in the original production of *West Side Story*. And above all there are the music and lyrics of John Kander and Fred Ebb, the duo responsible for *Cabaret* — yet another Prince production.

Even so, *Kiss* nearly disappeared into the void long before reaching the stage. The original version, mounted as a workshop project with a different cast two years ago, was regarded as a failure even by the authors themselves. They felt the lavish fantasy sequences overshadowed the central plot. Worse still, although it was explicitly advertised as a work-in-progress,

the production was given a downbeat review by the powerful *New York Times* critic Frank Rich.

Normally, a thumbs-down from that source buries a musical. But this team pressed on, revamping the show and eventually obtaining backing from a Canadian producer, Garth Drabinsky. Hence the Toronto premiere. If the London performances go as well as expected, a New York opening will follow.

Puig's novel, first published in the mid-1970s, is not a conventional best-seller. Most of the text consists of protracted dialogues between the two prisoners: the effeminate Molina and the puritanical, dogma-spouting activist Valentín. A modern-day Sheherazade, Molina helps to distract his companion by weaving stories inspired by his favourite romantic films. The men, who initially have nothing in common, gradually come together.

The book reached a wider audience through Hector Babenco's low-key film adaptation, with William Hurt delivering an Oscar-winning performance as Molina. The musical adaptation is markedly different and arguably more coherent. Whereas the screen version was constructed around two wildly contrasting storylines — the prison sequences and the scenes set in the never-never land of film noir — the stage production uses music and dance in order to illustrate the inner lives of the central characters.

Kander and Ebb were on another of their fine-tuning missions when they flew into Toronto in August. A few doors away in the same hotel, McNally had his typewriter unpacked on the table, ready for more rewrites. Much of their attention was focussed on clarifying Rivera's role as Aurora, the exotic temptress who dwells in Molina's subconscious.

The idea for the musical came from Ebb. He recalls that when he first mentioned the project to



No fetters for a vivid imagination: one of the fantasy scenes from Kander and Ebb's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, opening this week at the Shaftesbury Theatre

Prince, all he had to do to win him over was to mention the title (the "spider woman", played by Rivera, is a symbol for death). The process of adaptation was far more difficult. "The workshop production had problems," Ebb explains, "because, like the movie, it had these two strands side by side. It's hard, when you have a strong central story, to get interested in a rather silly romance. It seemed inconsequential."

"The fact is, now I hardly remember the movie. When you put a musical together you just say 'These are the new rules'. You have to add extra elements, otherwise you haven't done anything."

Puig, who died two years ago, would probably have approved, in

any case. An Argentine who worked at the Cinecittà film studios in Rome before settling in New York in the early 1960s, he was exceptionally enthusiastic about the workshop version. "He had no inhibitions about allowing us to make changes to the story," Ebb says. "He actually told me: 'You must forget about the book.' He was a fabulous little man. He was funny, he was dear and he was outrageous." Kander butts in at this point: "He was Molina."

Kander and Ebb have been a song-writing team for 30 years. For much of their career they have been regarded as polished song and dance journeymen, always on hand to stitch together a show for Frank Sinatra or their old friend Liza

Minnelli. Yet they have also been attracted to unusual political topics. Their first musical, after all, was *Flora, The Red Menace*, a piece about an ingenue (played by Minnelli) who is persuaded by her boyfriend to join the Communist party. In *Cabaret*, their next show, they successfully recreated the cynical Berlin of the Brecht-Weill era. Kurt Weill's widow Lotte Lenya appeared in the original New York production.

Though some critics may see *Kiss of the Spider Woman* as an extension of these themes, Kander steers clear of any such discussion. "People described *Cabaret* as a political musical, but I don't think we did. It was just something happening in a highly political

atmosphere. Our only aim is to move people and entertain them." The two men live within four blocks of each other in New York. When they are working on a project, Kander goes to Ebb's house each morning to sit at the piano. Most of their songs are built up line by line. It is a slow, piecemeal business which sometimes yields unexpected results. Their most popular song, "New York, New York", for instance, might never have seen the light of day without the help of Robert De Niro.

Kander explains that they originally wrote a different, "lighter" version of the song for Martin Scorsese's film *New York, New York*. At that stage it was intended to be a minor number.

During production, however, De Niro took Scorsese aside. "De Niro felt that the musical numbers should be re-jigged," says Kander, "and that 'New York, New York' should be the main number instead of our other song, 'The World Goes Round'. We walked away thinking 'How dare he? What does he know about songs?' And then we went off and wrote one of the best songs we ever did. So it's really thanks to De Niro. I can't even remember that first version now."

Fred Ebb breaks into a smile. "I don't either."

● *Kiss of the Spider Woman* previews from Thursday at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (071-379 5399), and opens on October 20.



Follow the subway lines

Poetry thrives on paradox, nowhere more so than in New York City. Verses by Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Yeats, and the contemporary poet Lucille Clifton are now decorating all 6,000 subway cars in the largest transit system in America — one more often associated with filth and violence than the delights of poetry.

New York's "Poetry in Motion", launched last week with 12,000 posters like the one above, joins a trans-continental clutch of similar programmes, from the London

Judith Chernaik celebrates the arrival of poetry on New York's public transport

Underground to (most recent) Stockholm. But New York is a special case: the quintessential "melting pot" of languages and special-interest groups, and a city in which public services are subjected to stresses beyond the imagination of city dwellers elsewhere.

New York is always on the brink of collapse, and New Yorkers have become hardened to sights that in other

cities would suggest the social dislocations of war. Respectable commuters tend to bury their heads in their newspapers, desperate to avoid eye contact with the unfortunates who have taken up semi-permanent residence in the subway. Most passengers also have a highly-developed alertness to danger, quite at odds with the reading of poetry.

But the poems have been chosen with a fine eye to the special conditions of New York life. Yeats's "When you are old and grey and full of sleep" is the favourite poem of the young Brooklyn College graduate in the Transit Authority who is responsible for the programme. Yet Yeats has probably also been included because he is Irish — like one-third of New York's population. Lucille Clifton's "let there be new flowering / in the fields" is not an obvious choice for an urban setting, but as a well-established African-American poet (and a woman) she too meets compelling ethnic criteria, as well as offering sentiments with which all New Yorkers will fervently agree:

let the war be won
let love be at the end

Whitman is America's poet of democracy, but he is above all a Brooklyn poet, and "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" an essential New York poem, with special resonance for New Yorkers homeward bound at rush hour, when the D train, packed with bodies pressed as closely as any lower could wish, crosses the East River into Brooklyn:

Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face!
Clouds of the west — sun there half an hour high — I see you also face to face.

In the centenary year of his death, Whitman is more alive to his fellow New Yorkers than he would have dreamt possible. And it seems appropriate that the New York Transit Authority should enable him to speak directly to new readers:

And you that shall cross from shore to shore years hence are more to me,
And more in my meditations, than you might suppose.

Unlike Whitman, Emily Dickinson had no desire to embrace humanity, and the most risky choice (to this ex-New Yorker) is her "Hope" is the thing with feathers/That perches in the soul". Most New Yorkers, at the sight of a thing with feathers, would run screaming to the other end of the carriage — but then, words are not things. Still it is curious to think of this New England recluse offered naked to public scrutiny by the masses.

Will anyone read the poems? It is too early to tell. If London's "Poems on the Underground" are any guide, people will be pleased to be reminded of a world different from that of their daily lives. But in its essence poetry remains private, a voice of dissent. Whitman is celebrated today, but was hounded in his own time for his homosexuality. It was Yeats, a master of tender nostalgia, who prophesied most accurately the horrors of our century:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned.

We are not likely to see lines so despairing, and so true, either on the New York subway or the London tubes.

Judith Chernaik is co-founder of "Poems on the Underground"

PATRICIA HODGE
'Funny and haunting'

Shades
by SHARMAN MACDONALD

'A masterpiece.'
Daily Mail

Directed by SIMON CALLOW
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NY
ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

PYGMALION
BY BERNARD SHAW

"It is hard to imagine a finer production of Shaw's most memorable play"

8, 9, 12 OCTOBER AT 7.15
10 & 13 OCTOBER AT 2.00 & 7.15 & CONTINUING

CONCERT

Free and spirited

tractable. Strait-laced sacred polyphony was threaded into sensuous harp or lute improvisations, and thence into languorous or satirical solos, sung with a freedom that would have graced any folk club.

Perhaps the instrumental interludes had a few too many anachronistic hints of flamenco. But if one could question the historical veracity, one could not deny the most important achievement: that the dusty parchments which he like relics in the dark interior of Seville Cathedral had been brought gloriously to life, and that another window had been opened on the extraordinary patchwork that is Spanish history.

The other two parts of this concert revealed more familiar vistas. Rafael Orozco played four pieces from Albeniz's magnificent collection of piano music, *Iberia*. Here is the musical essence of Spain — the tension that arises when the metre is free but the rhythm is precise — distilled with the virtuoso impressionist technique that Albeniz acquired in Paris, so that languid tunes seem to emerge in the middle of the keyboard while, at either extreme, notes

continue to be sprayed as if by dozens of guitars. Orozco, in scintillating form, perfectly maintained this illusion of playing with three hands.

Finally, the BBC Symphony Orchestra assembled in some quantity under Andrew Davis to give a rare (and well prepared) performance of Roberto Gerhard's Third Symphony, the one with the taped whooshes to help it towards the heart of darkness it so earnestly seeks but never quite reaches. It does explore some wild and weird sonorities, but on the whole I prefer Gerhard when he is not wearing his apocalyptic cape.

RICHARD MORRISON

ARTS BRIEF

Someone transfers



THE "hostages" play by Frank McGuinness, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, will end its London run prematurely on November 7, allowing the production to move directly to Broadway, opening at the Booth Theatre on November 23, three months earlier than planned. Producer Noel Pearson has moved forward the play's Broadway

debut primarily to benefit from the fact that the star, Stephen Rea (left), has the main role in the film, *The Crying Game*, which opens in New York the same week.

Croatian role
IVO POGORELICH, the flamboyant young pianist who fiercely divided the critics a few years ago and then disappeared from the scene, may be taking on a surprising diplomatic role. When Croatia sets up an embassy in London, Pogorelich may be appointed as cultural attaché. The pianist has been involved in Croatian appeals: his first London performance for some seasons is to raise money for the restoration of Dubrovnik's ancient monuments.

Last chance...
PETER JAMES'S ingenious revival of *The Madras House* by Harley Granville Barker proved to be far and away the best of the theatre offerings in the Edinburgh Festival's official programme. Staged as a co-production with the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, it ends its Hammersmith run on Saturday (081-741 2311).

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SEE what choice of schools are on offer under one roof saving you valuable time and effort

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DECIDE on the options which best suit you and your child

and then...
MEET financial experts who will be offering FREE advice on how to plan ahead for your child's education
GAIN practical insights from the FREE seminars and workshops.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

The Times invites theatre-lovers to take their places in a select circle, with two tickets for the price of one

Put some drama back in your life

Today, *The Times* in conjunction with the Society of West End Theatre and the Theatrical Management Association (representing regional theatres), is offering readers two theatre tickets for the price of one, at any one of more than 200 productions around the country.

Hayley and Juliet Mills in Noel Coward's *Fallen Angel* at Brighton's Theatre Royal and elsewhere. Maureen Lipman in Neil Simon's new play *Lost in Yonkers* on tour. Pauline Collins in Sharrman Macdonald's new play

Shades at the West End's Albery Theatre... these are just some of the performances included in our list of more than 200 productions at 114 regional and West End theatres.

To book your seats simply choose a production from the selection listed below and telephone your chosen theatre, quoting "The Times two-for-one voucher offer". When you collect your ticket, hand in the voucher which you will find inserted in *Life & Times* today and you will be given an extra ticket free.

ENGLAND

Bagnor, nr Newbury: Watmull Theatre (0635 46044)
Oct 5-11, *The Crucifer of Blood*, a Sherlock Holmes mystery by Paul Gilman

Billingham: Forum Theatre (0642 552663)
Oct 5-11, *School for Scandal* by R.B. Sheridan. W/O Oct 12, Syd Lawrence Orchestra (Thurs), Billy Pearce, Linda Casard, Laughter Show (Fri), Band of HM Royal Marines (Sat), W/O Oct 19, *Postman Pat's Special Delivery*. W/O Oct 20, *Fallen Angels* by Noel Coward with Hayley and Juliet Mills

Birmingham: Birmingham Rep (021 256 4455)
Oct 5-11, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, adapted by Frank Galati

Bolton: Octagon Theatre (0204 20861)
Oct 5-11, *A Taste of Honey* by Shelagh Delaney with Sally Whitaker and Nick Conway

Bracknell: Wilde Theatre (0344 484125)
W/O Oct 5, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. W/O Oct 12, *Talking Pictures*. W/O Oct 19, *Cliff's Afternoon* (Wed), *Union Dance Company* (Thurs), W/O Oct 19, *The Rivals* by R.B. Sheridan

Bradford: Alhambra Theatre (0274 752000)
W/O Oct 5, *Lost in Yonkers* by Neil Simon with Maureen Lipman. W/O Oct 12, *West Side Story*. W/O Oct 19, *Rambert Dance Company*. W/O Oct 26, *Northern Ballet Theatre - Swan Lake*

Brighton: Gardner Arts Centre (0273 685861)
W/O Oct 5, *Snarling Boasies - Punch and Judy (The Real Story)* (Tues), *Row Harper (Fri)*. W/O Oct 12, *Carmine Music (Mon)*, *Ra Ra Ro (Wed)*, *Royal National Theatre - Billy Liar* by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall (Thurs-Sat), W/O Oct 19, *The Puss - Armed and Dangerous* (Mon-Tues), *The Electroacoustic Cabinet* (Wed), *Judith Tuke* (Thurs), *Urban Bush Women* (Fri), *Jeremy Hardy* (Sat), W/O Oct 26, *Theatre de Complicité - Ave Maria* (Tues), *Quinn* (Wed), *Paul Zouren with Tricky n' Tracks* (Fri), *Shiksha* (Sat)

Brighton: Theatre Royal (0273 28488)
W/O Oct 5, *West Side Story*. W/O Oct 12, *London City Ballet - Swan Lake*. W/O Oct 19, *Fallen Angels* by Noel Coward with Hayley and Juliet Mills. W/O Oct 26, *Lady Be Good* by George and Ira Gershwin with Bernard Cribbins

Bristol: Bristol Old Vic (0272 250250)
Oct 5-11, *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (Theatre Royal). *Women of the Dust* by Ruth Crawford (New Vic)

Bury St Edmunds: Theatre Royal (0274 769505)
W/O Oct 5, *The Office Party* by John Goff. W/O Oct 12, *Notes Off* by Michael Frayn. W/O Oct 19, *Lulu* by Frank Wedekind

Burton: Opera House (0298 552000)
W/O Oct 5, *Nightmare* with Peter Byrne, Jean Rogers, David Ker-Jones, Truax, Childs. W/O Oct 19, *Alouette* (Fri), *W/O Oct 26, Hopper & Sandberg* by Ken Lee

Cambridge: Arts Theatre (0223 552000)
W/O Oct 5, *The Rivals* by R.B. Sheridan. W/O Oct 12, *Lady Be Good* by George and Ira Gershwin with Bernard Cribbins. W/O Oct 19, *Opera East - Madam Butterfly* (Tues), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Wed), *Sophia Davies Dance Company* (Fri), *W/O Oct 26, A Pig in a Poke* by George Feydeau

Cheltenham: Everyman Theatre (0242 572573)
Oct 5-11, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen. W/O Oct 5, *Two by Jim Cartwright* (Studio), W/O Oct 19, *Laurel and Hardy* by Tom McGrath (Studio), *Thunderbirds FAB - The Next Generation*. W/O Oct 26, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (from Fri)

Chester: Gateway Theatre (0244 24092)
Oct 5-11, *Louise and Louisa* by Peter Shaffer with Joanna Van Gyseghem and Stephanie Turner. W/O Oct 26, *amateur production*

Chesterfield: Pomegranate Theatre (0246 232901)
W/O Oct 5, *Crying for Words* by Sue Townsend. W/O Oct 19, *Alexander Roy London Ballet Theatre* (Mon, Tues)

Coventry: Belgrade Theatre (0203 553055)
W/O Oct 5, *Run for Your Wife* by Ray Cooney. 12-31 Oct, *Shadows* by William Nicholson

Coventry: Arts Centre, University of Warwick (0203 524524)
W/O Oct 5, *Lady Be Good* by George and Ira Gershwin with Bernard Cribbins. W/O Oct 12, *Macbeth* about Nothing by William Shakespeare. W/O Oct 19, *Tristram Theatre Company - State of Bewilderment* (Mon-Thurs), *Millsam Touring - The Secret Rapture* by David Hare (Studio, Thurs), W/O Oct 26, *Royal National Theatre - Billy Liar* by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall (Mon-Wed), *Reveries of Not Dead* starring Miles and Milner with Jim Tavaré (Thurs)

Crawley: The Hawk (0293 553626)
W/O Oct 12, *Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman. W/O Oct 26, *An Evening with Gary Lincoff*

Croydon: Ashcroft Theatre (081-685 9291)
W/O Oct 5, *The House of Stairs* by Ruth Rendell with Virginia Stride. W/O Oct 12, *Run for Your Wife* by Ray Cooney with Trevor Bannister

Derby: Derby Playhouse (0332 363275)
Oct 5-11, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. W/O Oct 19, *amateur production*

Exeter: Northcott Theatre (0392 548553)
W/O Oct 5, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Christopher Sergel, based on the novel by Harper Lee. W/O Oct 12, *Dead Man's Hat* by Charles Wat. W/O Oct 19, *English National Ballet*

Farnham: Redgrave Theatre (0252 715111)
Oct 5-11, *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare

Harlow: The Playhouse (0279 41945)
W/O Oct 5, *Martin Taylor* (Wed), *Ken Dodd* (Thurs), W/O Oct 12, *The Rivals* by R.B. Sheridan. W/O Oct 19, *Macbeth* about Nothing by William Shakespeare. W/O Oct 26, *George Melly* (Tue), *English National Ballet* (Fri, Sat)

Harrrogate: Harrogate Theatre (0143 502116)
Oct 5-11, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. W/O Oct 26, *The Hostage* by Brendan Behan

Hornchurch: Queens Theatre (0708 443333)
Oct 5-11, *Guilford* by Patrick Hamilton with Brian Cant. W/O Oct 26, *Last* by the Heather Brothers with Brian Hilbert and Denis Lawson

Hull: New Theatre (0482 226655)
W/O Oct 5, *D'Oyly Carte Opera - The Yeomen of the Guard* (Mon-Wed), *The Mikado* (Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat), W/O Oct 12, *Revenge* by Robin Hawdon with Fiona Fullerton and Patrick Mower. W/O Oct 19, *The Decorator* with Peter Davison, Gabrielle Drake and

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On tour: Bernard Cribbins in *Lady Be Good*

Why nothing beats a live performance

Theatre is a drug. Once let it into your system, and who can say where you will end up. But if you are lucky you will let it into your system a second time and soon you will be hooked. Who knows what really draws professional actors, singers and dancers out onto the boards night after night to act or sing or dance their hearts out. "It's a job," they say but that tells you nothing. The applause, the attention of a thousand eyes, may be part of the story but the heart of the reason is likely to be just the same as what draws us, the audience, to go and watch them acting and singing and dancing their hearts out.

Theatre, musicals, opera and ballet, they take us out of ourselves for a few precious hours. They liberate us from the daily matter-of-factness of our lives. We become other than we usually are, and this sometimes means we touch our real selves.

We only have to think of a bad performance in a rotten show to see the truth in this. Good performances carry us

away. Unless we are very young we do not exactly forget that we are sitting in a theatre surrounded by scores of other people all watching a few men and women pretending to be people they are not. Yet we do not exactly remember it either. The lines, the music, the lights, the movement, involve us in a story. We want to know the outcome. We want to watch the characters reveal themselves on the way to the outcome. In a mysterious way we somehow become one or other of the characters. It is our story they are telling. Bad performances do just the opposite. They never allow us to forget for a second that our seat is too high or too narrow, that the person in front will not stop fidgeting.

At the cinema we can see sharks gobbling up reckless bathers, houses burn to the ground, hikers transformed into werewolves. Television brings these thrills into arm's reach where nobody matters if we fidget or crumple the chocolate wrapper.

But mechanical media cannot equal the thrill of the real thing - live theatre. In films

and television the "projection" is something a machine does in the theatre people do it, they are on stage, projecting themselves, their characters, to the 50 people in a fringe theatre above a pub, or to the 1,500 in the stalls and circles of a mighty Victorian playhouse encrusted with cherubs and naked nymphs holding up torches - caryatids, alas, not ushers.

Is it people have asked, because something could always go wrong? Actors forgetting their lines, falling off the stage? The final moments of *Tosca* rend the heart but I confess I should like, once, to see the fat lady throw herself off the battlements onto a badly placed mattress and bounce back up into view.

What is special to live performances is the realisation that the performers have come to the theatre just for us. Likewise, we have come just for them. For an hour or two we are sharing the same place, communicating our feelings without inhibition. Nothing beats that.

JEREMY KINGSTON

SCOTLAND

Ayr: Gaity Theatre (0292 264639)
W/O Oct 5, *A Breath of Scotland* (Sat), W/O Oct 12, *Pinocchio* (mats, Fri eve), W/O Oct 19, *Liberty Mountain - A Tribute to Elvis* (Thurs), *Hank Wangford* (Fri)

Cumbernauld: Cumbernauld Theatre (0236 732887)
W/O Oct 5, *Educating Rita* by Willy Russell (Wed), *Houdini's Death Defying Mystery* by Raymond Finsom (Fri, Sat), W/O Oct 19, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. W/O Oct 26, *Company*. *Strangers - Macbeth* (Tues), W/O Oct 26, *The House That Jack Bought* by David McLennan and David Anderson

Dundee: Dundee Repertory Theatre (0582 23553)
Oct 5-11, *Whores of the Virgin Woolf* by Edward Albee. W/O Oct 19, *Dundee Rep Dance Company*. W/O Oct 26, *Torture* by Molire, adapted by Liz Lochhead

Edinburgh: Royal Lyceum Theatre (031-229 9697)
Oct 5-11, *Old Times* by Harold Pinter. Oct 19-31, *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Edinburgh: Traverse Theatre (031-228 1404)
W/O Oct 5, *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess. W/O Oct 12, *Meet the Author*, organised by the Edinburgh Book Festival. W/O Oct 26, *The House Among the Stars* by Michael Tremblay

Glasgow: Citizens' Theatre (041-429 0022)
5-31 Oct, *Sweet Bird of Youth* by Tennessee Williams (First Theatre), *Not About Heroes* by Stephen Macdonald (Second Theatre), *Venus and Adonis* by William Shakespeare (Third Theatre)

Glasgow: Theatre Royal (041-332 9000)
W/O Oct 5, *Scottish Opera - Cost fan tutte* by Mozart (Fri), *Il Trovatore* by Verdi (Sat), W/O Oct 19, *Julius Caesar* by Handel (Wed, Sat), *Il Trovatore* by Verdi (Thurs), W/O Oct 26, *Julius Caesar* by Handel (Tues, Thurs), *Il Trovatore* by Verdi (Wed), *Cost fan tutte* by Mozart (Sat)

Glasgow: Tramway (041-423 1333)
5-17 Oct, *Y Cwmni - East From the Gentry*

Inverness: Eden Court Theatre (0463 221719)
W/O Oct 5-11, *School for Wives* by Molire. W/O Oct 19, *Auroras* (Wed), W/O Oct 26, *Mary Duff and Friends* (Tues)

Perth: Perth Theatre (0738 21031)
W/O Oct 5-11, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* by Liz Lochhead. W/O Oct 19-31, *Wasting Reality* by Ian Brown

Pitlochry: Festival Theatre (0796 472680)
W/O Oct 5, *Spiders Web* by Agatha Christie, *The Norman Conquests* by Alan Ayckbourn. *Months of Sundays* by Bob Larbey. *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. *Jane Eyre* adapted by Ray Weldon. *The Dominion of Fancy* by Stewart Conn

St Andrews: Byre Theatre (0334 76288)
W/O Oct 5, *Othello* by William Shakespeare

Stirling: MacRobert Arts Centre (0786 61081)
W/O Oct 5, *Scotland the What?* W/O Oct 12, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. W/O Oct 19, *The Three Musketeers*. W/O Oct 26, *Birmingham Echo*. *Academy of Sound Theatre* (Tues): *Peta Lily* (Wed), *The Practice* (Thurs)

WALES

Aberystwyth: Arts Centre (0970 622889)
W/O Oct 5, *Theatre Had - Dances Angus* (Wed), *Spring and Port Wine* (Thurs-Sat), W/O Oct 12, *Gwlad Oer - Cwmni 'Where Tag* (Wed), *The Ukrainians* (Wed), *Brian Blessed* (Thurs, Rod, Jane and Freddie) (Sat), W/O Oct 19, *Las Vegas Brakes* (Wed), *New Bachmann Quartet* (Thurs), *Orlando* (Fri), W/O Oct 26, *Haunted Hotel* (Tues-Sat)

Cardiff: New Theatre (0222 39484)
W/O Oct 12, *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde with Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw. W/O Oct 19, *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare with John Woodvine. W/O Oct 26, *Revenge* by Robin Hawdon with Fiona Fullerton and Patrick Mower

Cardiff: Sherman Theatre (0222 230451)
W/O Oct 5, *Blowdown* (Mon-Thurs), *Yn Ein Ddydd* (Mon, Tues), *Kemp's Jig* (Wed), W/O Oct 12, *HMS Pinafore* (amateur), *Blowdown*. W/O Oct 19, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (amateur), *Y Llybair Adref* (mats), W/O Oct 26, *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward (amateur)

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Long is the way when winter sets in

For sheer cosiness, elegance and usefulness, the long coat is sweeping its way back, predicts Brenda Polan

Hardy Amies's famous remark that people no longer wear hats, they have cars instead, was recently topped by the editor of the *Sunday Express*, Eve Pollard, when, on leaving a grand and bare-shouldered event, she was asked if she had a coat. "No," she replied, beady eyeing the yawning, coat-clutching queue for the cloakroom. "I have a driver." Those who had mistakenly assumed that a limousine purring expectantly at the kerbside had more to do with status than anything else hastily revised their opinions.

In just the same way that British Rail is inadequately prepared for snow, British hotels, restaurants, museums, galleries, theatres and offices are not quite up to the demands of serious outerwear. In countries which take winter seriously such as Russia, Switzerland and Scandinavia, there are large, well-organised and well-guarded, free cloakrooms. In Britain the safest, quickest and cheapest option is usually to sit on your damp coat. Women old enough to have been fashion-conscious in the 1970s have rueful memories of shrugged-off maxi-coats collapsing bulky to dusty floors, there to be crushed underfoot by waiters, children and muddy-pawed pets seeking something soft to cosy up to.

Yet the long, long coat looks so dramatic when its wearer is standing up or striding through a wintry landscape that it is impossible to believe that its return this winter will be much resisted. It is a glamorous garment for several reasons: in a half-way decent fabric it looks expensive, elegant and grown-up; it covers up all the bitty, indecisive morning compromises in terms of sweaters and skirts or trousers; it conjures up romantic images from the underheated past when layers of clothing were the best defence against bitter cold.

Originally, the overcoat was an exclusively male garment, developed in the 18th century to keep the coachman from shivering to death up on his box. It was known as the box coat and public coaches carried spares to offer to passengers riding outside. The armies of Europe, weary of campaigning with just a draughty cloak to wrap around their gaudy uniforms, were quick to appropriate it, as were travelling and sporting gentlemen in Britain and on the continent. Women did not start to feel the benefit of a snug buttoned-up overcoat until the end of the century and it only really became established as part of the



Snappy: Jackie Kennedy's short, sharp bony coats (above) set a style for the 1960s, which lasted until it was swept away by the all-enveloping romance of *Doctor Zhivago* and the fur-loving hippies. Fashion notwithstanding, the Sixties look has endured in some — notably Royal — quarters ever since (left)

fashionable female wardrobe in the 1840s when, retaining the caped shoulders of the coachman's coat, it was fitted to the hourglass shape of the crinoline.

Thereafter, the female overcoat was entirely the victim of fashion's whim, adhering closely to the currently desirable silhouette. It was engineered to encompass the bustle, to cling narrowly over the flapper's bustless, hipless frame and, padded and gored, to swerve dramatically over the contours of the New Look. The 1960s coat was merely the high bust-darted minidress in a heavier fabric. It looked best on Jackie Kennedy, and the Queen still refuses to relinquish it.

The current coat revival favours three distinct, traditional styles: the military greatcoat, the fur or velvet-trimmed redingote and the spacious raglan which owes its full, easy line to the eponymous Commander of Britain's forces in the Crimea and his insistence on comfort and manoeuvrability. Irresistibly, the high-waisted military-type greatcoats, which also come in glossy leather, this autumn, summon up Garbo as Queen Christina and Julie Christie in *Doctor Zhivago*, the film which triggered the last major coat revival. In those days the coat was often worn over a

miniskirt and high, highly polished boots. The new version is intended to be worn over the new long skirt and the skinny sweater or fitting jacket which goes with it. The boots are *fin de siècle* ankle-hugging jobs with a small sturdy heel.

The softer redingote, less strict with fewer tabs and brass buttons, is semi-fitted, a matter of clever darts rather than serious seams, with a flaring skirt and, often, velvet or fur trim. Real fur is creeping back on collars and cuffs, a remarkable renaissance for a material whose obituary, in Britain at least, was written in the 1980s. But most of the trim on this season's coats is fake fur, leopard-spotted for preference. The best-value version, the one for which most of London's fashion editors have their names down, is the Whistles redingote (£285 from Whistles, St Christopher's Place, London W1 and branches).

The raglan varies in capaciousness but the greater the yardage the greater the sense of luxury. Some of the best of these come from traditional coat-makers such as Aquascutum but Nicole Farhi's huge fur-trimmed coat is perhaps the most spectacular. The big loose coats sit well over trousers as well as

skirts and efficiently double as an extra counterpane in other people's icy country houses.

The cosiness factor should not be overlooked. There's a sort of psychological comfort to be derived from hugging yards of soft wool or cashmere around oneself which no down-filled parka and thermal leggings can supply. But when it comes to agility, to putting it on and forgetting it, to bundling it up and stuffing it under the cinema seat, the mid-thigh length parkas that were introduced last winter are unbeatable. The shops are full of repeats this winter.

The coat which the seriously fashionable will be mothballing this winter is the swingbacked short coat, popular for the past couple of years, which was designed to partner leggings, ski-pants or a very short skirt. Its proportions are entirely wrong for the long skirt, although the thrifty among us are convinced it still looks fine over any kind of trouser. Those who invested in a brightly coloured swirly number will find that it and the new masculine-cut dark trouser suit make an eye-catching and, with good ankle-boots, warm combination. Warmth, for those of us who have to leg it back to the parking meter, can sometimes seem more important than glamour.



Traditional class: the Whistles redingote, one of three distinct styles back in fashion this year

Matthew Parris wonders what conclusions to draw from the way party conference delegates dress

Where the only thing hot is the air

To find some key trend-setting fashion pointers for the autumn, take a round ticket to the three party conferences. Whatever delegates are wearing is — you may rely on it — out.

How do I know that T-shirts with printed slogans were strictly for the 1980s? Because Liberal Democrats were going crazy for them in Harrogate

three weeks ago. Where can we be sure that those with chic little *feminazi* blazers in scarlet, with power-padded shoulders, are passé? Because Labour women were still wearing them in Blackpool last week. When do we pronounce the double-breasted suit and Manhattan haircut definitive dead? When we see it on Young Conservatives in Brighton this week.

Yet, if a glance at what people are wearing at Harrogate, Blackpool and Brighton this year tells us what to avoid, it also tells us something about the ideological tides and social undercurrents within the parties themselves.

Take the Liberal Democrats. A year ago, suits, silk ties and mobile telephones made a tentative appearance even among Liberals, the last of the three parties to succumb. In 1991, everybody noticed the disappearance of the stereotypical Liberal of the clichés: shorts-and-sandals, trainers-and-Parkas, beards, woolly hats, embroidered smocks. Third party politics of the nutty kind, we concluded, must be disappearing too. Paddy Ashdown was hooked on Antiques; Simon Hughes had bitten his yellow Lycra cycling shorts, and Liberal Democrats were ready for government. Bye bye, yoghurt eaters, we cried.

Too soon. I have disturbing news from Harrogate, 1992. Beards are back. Five, five



Gordon Brown (right) and tasteful-abstract ties in Blackpool

pairs of sandals were spotted, all of them worn with socks. And on three successive days there were sightings of shorts in the Yorkshire drizzle. One big election disappointment, we conclude, and liberalism is reaching back for the comforts of its childhood. The nursery favourites: teddy bears and animal rights; homespun politics and home-knitted jerseys. Some of this was a reversion to type. But the loony element has been reinforced by new blood from the Green party,

which effectively died at its conference this year. Did you see the green folk at Wolverhampton? Scattered, now, to the four winds, some of the smocks have blown in among the Lib-Dem suits. The Green diaspora begins.

The signals from Blackpool last week were even more confusing. If a glance at the political pages of this newspaper suggests a government in shambles, and an Opposition storming confidently towards an open goal, style-

watching at the Labour conference tells a different story. Style-watching reveals a party with an identity crisis.

The suits were there, certainly: dark suits, oversized *à la* Paul Boateng, and ties of a type best described as muted-floral or tasteful-abstract. But although last year the "yuppie" seemed to carry all before it, this year other, rival, self-images were muscling their way back into the Winter Gardens. Among the more style-conscious young men, a sprinkling of button-up silk shirts (no tie) was visible. But they rubbed shoulders with Doc Martens, black denim jeans, and white T-shirts — the "London Labour" look. There were even a few little caps. Simply Red style.

Carefully ill-fitting jackets from the charity shops abounded in the hotel lobby bars, and also popular are NHS glasses (the kind you can't actually get on the NHS any more — Gucci do them). The trade unionists look like the same ones who have gathered in Brighton or Blackpool any year you care to mention. Your trade unionist, like your starling, is unvarying. Even as the old ones die, new ones are being born and measured for the off-the-peg suits, off-white shirts, with off-popping buttons, and off-maroon nylon ties, plus union crests.

And how about the Labour women? The power-dressed, brass-buttoned, over-cut jacket survives, and every tenth female delegate is a cinema usherette. In years gone by, the subliminal message behind such outfits was "Dare to fancy me". But this year, foliated women rubbed padded shoulders with an army of the Earrings. These women have short hair, and such enormous earrings that in later years they will look like Hutu tribeswomen, with grotesquely distorted lobes. This is a look which says: "Fancy me, and I'll kick you where it hurts."

Contrast this with your rising Tory woman. Virginia Bottomley's tasteful winstons with just that hint of coquetry are saying: "Fancy me and, now I've got your attention, here are my views on GP fund-holding."

We can guess the prevailing styles among the Tory platform party at Brighton this week. But I have a theory which the week ahead in Brighton should enable me to test. I have detected a *prima facie* correlation between the holding of sceptical views on the Maastricht moves towards monetary union, and the wearing of boldly coloured socks. Red socks, in particular, often accompany a hostile attitude to Brussels.

Europhiles tend to wear grey or pastel coloured socks — Ted Heath, for instance, has a predilection for very pale blue ones. Nicholas Soames's are pale yellow. It can be no coincidence that these two colours make up the European flag of yellow stars on a blue background. Can you imagine Douglas Hurd in scarlet socks? Of course not.

Disturbing news from Harrogate, 1992. Beards are back. Five, five pairs of sandals were spotted, all worn with socks

ASTROLOGY AND THE HEAVENLY CONSTELLATIONS

EHRMAN TAPESTRY



Jamie and Jessi Seaton, the well-known knitwear designers, felt inspired by a Dürer engraving of medieval star maps to turn their hand to needlework. The result is a stunning tapestry kit cushion in smouldering colours set on a deep charcoal background. In the bottom corner sits Azophi Arabis, one of the greatest of the early astronomers, with the globe in his hands. Above are ranged familiar symbols from the Zodiac and the astral configurations. Burnt sienna and fox red, cinnamon, mahogany and chestnut browns, taupe, gold and cadmium yellow are mixed with amethyst, azure blue, spruce, cherry and frosted white, and glow against the midnight sky. The geometric, outer border is stitched in shades of gold and deep rose pink.

Measuring 16" x 16" the design is printed in full colour on 12 holes to the inch canvas. 100% pure wool from the Appleton range is used and the design can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit costs £38.50 including postage and packing, and comes complete with wool, canvas, needle and instructions. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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Jackson's Romanian appeal

The people of Bucharest had seen nothing like it as rock's fey superstar descended.

Nicholas Watt reports on a city in shock

When Michael Jackson's promoter suggested a charity concert in Romania, Jackson is said to have asked: "Where's Romania?" After a quick tutorial encompassing Transylvania and Dracula, MJ, as his PR team insist on calling him, jumped at the idea. *Thriller*, his hit single in which dancing skeletons take to the stage, would be ideal.

Jackson's Romanian fans don't really care what persuaded him to include Bucharest in his European "Dangerous" tour, but the country's opposition Democratic Convention responded in kind with a declaration saying they had never heard of Michael Jackson and didn't care about him. *Evenimentul Zilei*, the country's largest selling newspaper, was besieged with calls saying that people should not vote for the opposition.

Bucharest's faded elegance hardly matches the Michael Jackson image but the luxurious Snagov palace, one of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu's favourite haunts, does. Before Jackson arrived, the palace was briefly notorious when the pair escaped there by helicopter as they were hounded out of Bucharest days before being executed. Last week Jackson stayed for four days in Snagov, which is surrounded by huge meadows and a lake which has a church in the middle. Road blocks for miles around kept curious fans at bay and absolute peace was guaranteed: when Ceausescu stayed there he was once so irritated by the noise of chickens and dogs that he ordered they be banished from the area.

Mihai Radu, a Romanian journalist, said: "Michael Jackson will have been very comfortable. There is a swimming pool and every luxury you can possibly imagine. It is very picturesque. It's a paradise."

Jackson's entourage of 350 — including his crew, beauticians and burly bodyguards — had 16 cooks who prepared food down out specially from western Europe. Lavatories and security guards were flown in. But some of his crew appeared distinctly unimpressed by Bucharest. Greg Philinganes, the band's keyboard player, moaned as he arrived at the airport, which looks like a permanent building site. He refused to pay for a visa and grumbled with other members of the band as he waited nearly an hour for his bag-

gage to appear on the airport's one creaky conveyor belt.

But Jennifer Batten, the spiky-haired lead guitarist, was delighted with Romania. "Hey man, it's wild out here. It's like coming to Mars. I've never been to Eastern Europe before and it beats working at Burger King." At a party for the crew in a restaurant outside Bucharest she wandered round with a video recorder filming traditional Romanian dancing.

The 65,000 who turned up for the concert could not fail to be impressed by Jackson. Bucharest had never seen

a show like it before.

Marcel Avram, Jackson's Romanian-born promoter, said: "The logistics of staging the concert were very difficult because Bucharest has never had a concert like this before. We transported the band's equipment in two 130-ton Antonov planes. The set for the stage was driven out in 23 trucks with ten fork-lift trucks. Everything came from abroad

except the manpower that built the stage."

Romanian electricity is so unreliable that Mr Avram brought three generators. "I love Romania but the electricity is not so good," he said. "Two of the generators were for the show and the other was for the catering."

In a country starved of outside culture for so long under Ceausescu's dictatorship, the concert was their first real taste of western pop music. Romanians were so touched that Jackson should have chosen their country for the east European leg of his "Dangerous" tour that political leaders clapped their way through the concert.

Romanian youngsters have so taken to Jackson that *Evenimentul Zilei* founded a fan club and has devoted a page a day to him for three months. Six hundred members of the club were given free tickets for the concert. Amalia Diaconu, a 15-year-old fan, declared: "If Michael's car ran me over I would die happy."

Romania's prime minister, Theodor Stolojan, an honorary member of the fan club, said: "This has only been possible in free Romania. Having Michael Jackson in Bucharest shows that people can now express their feelings. It is like a volcano for us. People normally see the sensational side of Romania but this will show how civilised our

country is... May the force be with you Michael Jackson."

The concert fell in the middle of the two-stage presidential election and every side of the political spectrum latched on to Jackson. President Iliescu, who came first in the initial ballot but who faces another round, embraced the concert. So did his opponent, Emil Constantinescu. But other members of the opposition thought the concert a frivolity Romanians could ill afford.

Some of the footballers who use Bucharest's national soccer stadium, where Jackson played, were not amused by the concert. The Dynamo club was meant to have played in a European Cup match on the day of the concert last Thursday but was promptly told to play elsewhere because the government, which owns the stadium, wanted to host Jackson.

No star can go to Romania without visiting orphans, but Jackson went one stage further. In Bucharest he launched his new charity, Heal the World, which aims to fight pollution and child abuse. Jackson also opened a playground at an orphanage built with money from the charity.

Old Bucharest hands could not help noting that the Leaganul Pentru Copii Sfinta Ecaterina orphanage is a showpiece. Built on the road to the airport it has received a considerable chunk of the foreign money pouring into Romania. One Romanian in-

cluded in the Jackson tour, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "In the old days the government showed the best. After the revolution they showed the worst and now they are back to showing the best."

Jackson, dressed in a black rimmed hat and a red striped sailor suit, kissed and cuddled babies and sang along with older children who had specially learnt his lyrics. Outside, the president waited 25 minutes for the star to appear. As Jackson's towering bodyguards, wearing sunglasses, jostled around him he was mobbed by children and cheered by fans penned in outside the orphanage and others peering down from trees and roof tops. Sheepishly holding his hand over his face, Jackson nodded awkwardly as he battled his way round the playground.

Romanian police and troops used truncheons to beat the hands of those who tried to peer over the perimeter fence. The children, who were keeping up a chorus of "Michael, Michael," were even more frustrated when the police covered the fence with black plastic bags to block their view.

Jackson's security men were equally muddled. When a party of journalists, who had been invited to cover the opening of the playground, arrived at the orphanage they were unceremoniously shepherded away by security



On song: Jackson



Star struck: Romanian orphans meet Michael Jackson at the opening of a showpiece playground

Heroines are still fighting

As Kuwait goes to the polls, its women go to the barricades

Most of the 400 Islamic suffragettes attending the first election rally in Kuwait to be addressed by women were underdressed as an explosion rent the night air, sending many white-robed men ducking for cover.

Even if some of us die, we will fight to get the vote," shouted a young teacher in a black *abbaya* (gown) who grabbed a microphone. "Whatever happens, I am going to try to vote on October 5."

The women, many of them dressed in chic western fashions, had already ignored a barrier separating them from male voters, some of whom looked on in horror. Steeled by their crucial role in the seven-month resistance against Iraq, Kuwait women have been fighting a spirited campaign against the refusal of the ruling Al-Sabah family to allow them to participate in today's poll, the first since parliament was dissolved in 1986.

They have already secured the backing of Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting American secretary of state, who has voiced Washington's exasperation at the allied liberation of Kuwait by a coalition in which women played an important role in helping secure the emirate's women the vote.

Fundamentalists have vowed violent opposition to the women, who, if they succeed in pushing their demand for the franchise through the new 50-seat parliament, would be alone among their sisters in the Gulf Arab states. They argue that even in revolutionary Iran women have the right to vote and to be elected.

As well as angering the Americans and the British, the emir's decision to snub Kuwait women lacks popular support. An opinion poll in Kuwait's *Arab Times* found that 57 per cent of Kuwaiti men favoured women being granted the vote and a 85 per cent of women wanted it. Many male voters admit shame over the ban after the bravery shown by women during the occupation. Thousands of women were tortured and raped but they still smuggled weapons and codes and ran secret hospitals in cellars.

The campaign for women's votes began last spring when registration for today's vote opened. The emir, under strong pressure to resist the campaign from neighbouring Saudi Arabia, where women

may not even drive, has tried to avoid making concessions. But he has been forced to admit that the issue may come before the new parliament and if a majority should vote in favour, Western diplomats believe he will have to give in.

The women are headed by a formidable Arab Emmeline Pankhurst, Mrs Alai Al-Sultan, mother of five children, grandmother, prominent clinical psychiatrist and member of one of the emirate's leading families. Like other women present she did not flinch at the blast — apparently from a home-made device.

"What is humiliating is that I am treated as a second class citizen," she said. "After what women went through in the war and occupation many are no longer willing to tolerate such a scandal."

Although the campaign has distant echoes of the one that eventually won British women the vote, it is more discreet. The well-heeled women of Kuwait have mounted protests outside electoral offices in fleets of Mercedes and BMWs.

One was led by Lulwa Al-Mullah, a doctor of philosophy and successful estate agent. "At the last election, [in 1985] we had to sit outside the election tents and listen to the speeches on our FM radios. This time we are insisting that we are going to play a part," she said.

Kuwaiti women, long noted for their business and administrative acumen, are not totally oppressed although they find it difficult to secure accommodation if they are single or married to foreigners. They are permitted to drive, to own businesses and to hold lesser ranks in government ministries. They can choose whether or not to wear the Islamic veil. They also have equal education opportunities and their exam results consistently show them more able than Kuwaiti men, who are widely regarded in the Arab world as both lazy and pampered.

"Many of our men are cowards who ran away during the invasion and even our government sat it out in the luxury of a Saudi hotel while we were here doing our best to fight for Kuwait," said another woman, who asked not to be identified.

Seeing me taking notes a nearby woman attending the historic rally remarked acidly: "Did you Westerners liberate all of Kuwait, or just its menfolk?"

CHRISTOPHER WALKER

In or out?



Every school now has to face up to the decision of whether to opt out.

A special 24 page colour pull-out in this week's TES examines the pros and cons of grant maintained status.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
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Bobby Seale might have come to Britain to galvanise our black youth — but he is still trapped in his own history

The panther turns grey

They certainly had a way with titles. *Seize the Time*, *Soul on Ice*, *Soledad Brother*. Bobby Seale, Eldridge Cleaver, George Jackson, leaders of America's black consciousness movement in the 1960s packed a literary as well as an actual punch. Their tales of trial and endurance are classics of their time and their authors have become icons.

Bobby Seale is one of the movement's few prominent survivors, and is keenly aware of his legendary status. "I'm more or less a history continuum," he told an audience in London last week.

Seize the Time, Mr Seale's account of the Black Panther movement, has just been re-issued after a gap of 22 years, and its author is in London to help British Panthers galvanise black youth in this country into a radical movement. The British version of the movement (now moribund in America) was established this year "to fight racism and advance the black struggle", styling itself as a democratic body concerned with sexual equality and "raising the consciousness of black people as to their history and struggle".

Mr Seale remains an inspirational figure. He has aged, of course, and, at 55, is now an almost portly figure, with greying hair and glasses. But the fire that was lit in 1962, when he first heard the late Malcolm X urge racial insurrection, still burns fiercely.

He stood trial at different times both for incitement to murder and organise riots,

eventually dropped. Today he talks of "too much dope and criminality" among black youths and voices appreciation that Britain has not succumbed to the cult of the gun.

When he is asked by young blacks about the lessons of his struggle for modern Britain, he soars back on verbal wings to 1962, when he awoke to the revolution, or 1969, when he helped form the Panthers, or 1969, when he was in jail — even 1973, as his black *Cameo* was fading, when he stood for mayor of Oakland. The man who once defied white America and took on the malignant might of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI remains a consummate showman, who appreciates more than most the importance of myth in moving a people off its knees.

Modern America, seen from a black perspective, could certainly do with a little myth-making. Mr Seale looks back to Martin Luther King, Huey P. Newton, Malcolm X, George Jackson, Stokely Carmichael, Eldridge Cleaver, who can he look to now? David Dinkins, the mayor of New York, who was once chased away from a riot after sending in the police and later staged a return wearing a Malcolm X baseball cap; Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, who refers to New York as "Hymie Town"; Jesse Jackson, who had a dream all right, but mainly that he should become president.

Mr Seale said there were now 200 black mayors in America and 10,000 other black elected politicians or



Consummate showman: Bobby Seale in London — "I'm more or less a history continuum," he told his audience

they ain't worth shit." He knew only too well of the horrors of the recent race riots in Los Angeles, with their grim intimation that nothing much has changed. He was also aware of the growth of inter-racial feuding between blacks and other minorities. Indians, Pakistanis, Sikhs, Vietnamese, Koreans and hispanics were now crowding into "black" areas, he said, and, in many cases, taking over black businesses.

"But I am against blacks who kill young Asians. When they do that, they are stooping to the same level as the Ku Klux Klan or skinheads [a rare European reference], and I say to them, 'if you stoop to that level don't call me'."

Mr Seale was never a segregationist and he was always willing to form coalitions with other "progressive" organ-

isations. But the essence of the Black Panthers was their unilateral declaration of independence — a declaration taken, ironically, from America's founding fathers. In the 1990s, Mr Seale, struggling to comprehend the black establishment's embrace of "white" values, has become, perforce, almost a moderate.

Mr Seale urges people, of every colour, to be ready to defend themselves against state violence and racial prejudice. "If you stand your ground, at the end of the day you're cool." Yet he does not advocate violence. Even in the 1960s, when he was often a walking arsenal, he was making a point, he says, not trying to kill policemen. In 1990s Britain, it is organisation and agitation that he says will win

"I don't ask young Panthers to take up guns," he says. "We already fought that fight. What we advocate is power to all the people. Racism is stupid. It is contingent upon a lot of dumb myth. To believe in racism is to believe that the universe has stopped."

Oddly, this is Mr Seale's first visit to Britain and he does not pretend to understand fully the particular nuances of UK race relations. All he can do is tell his story — as he does 30 or 40 times a year in America — and try to relate his celebrated experience to the lives of contemporary blacks throughout the world. To this end, he has even updated his vocabulary. In the new introduction to *Seize the Time*, he refers to establishing "civil and human rights for all, including the right to an ecologically balanced, pollution-free

So Bobby Seale is worried about the ozone layer. It is a sign of the times and a last curtain call, perhaps, for an old trouper, struggling to keep his performance fresh. What must be clear to all is that Mr Seale was seized and held by his own time long ago, when he was shackled in that Chicago courtroom and stood there three days a self-appointed symbol of oppression.

WALTER ELLIS

CORRECTION

The photograph accompanying the article "A sad end to terms of trial" (September 25) was of Michael Richardson, director of continuing education at Madingley Hall, Cambridge, and not, as stated, of Nigel Richardson, founder of

Too clever by half

British pride in the rigour of university selection might be misplaced, Peter Scott believes.

Never mind the width, feel the quality — the clichéd sales patter could well once have been a motto for Britain's universities and colleges. They admitted fewer students than across the Channel and far fewer than across the Atlantic but the "survival rate", to adopt policy-speak, of those they did admit was much higher. Recent figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris show this is still true, up to a point. In Italy fewer than a third complete their degrees. Here more than nine out of ten are successful.

This characteristic of British higher education was always seen as its special strength. Money was not wasted on students who dropped out. Although our universities and colleges admitted barely more than half the number enrolled in France or Germany, Britain produced almost as many graduates. Our universities retained a scholarly atmosphere long since abandoned in the rest of Europe and the United States and provided a high-quality student experience.

Today many people recognise that this contrast between British and foreign patterns was always overdrawn, that a tough-selection, low-wastage policy cannot be sustained on the edge of the 21st century and that it was probably a weakness anyway.

The OECD's comparison of survival rates shows Britain's 94 per cent is no longer exceptional. The Swedes manage an implausible 109 per cent — a quirk of statistical categories rather than another example of Swedish efficiency. But the Dutch, with 87 per cent, are not far behind us. Even in Germany, so often seen as the archetypal land of the wandering (and ageing) student, four out of five manage to graduate. The true division is not between Britain and everyone else but between northern and southern Europe.

Nor is low wastage necessarily evidence that academic standards are high. The president of one of Paris's many



Looking ahead: entrenched views on standards will have to change with the expansion of higher education

universities told me recently that he assured academic quality by ensuring that a large number of students "fail" at the end of their first year. British universities, in contrast, cannot shed marginal students in this brusque way.

Even British higher education's elitism, love it or hate it, is much exaggerated. Every country has its pocket of highly selective institutions — the "ivy league" in America, the grandes écoles in France (incidentally, outside the university system entirely). Admittedly they do not appear to dominate the rest of higher education as Oxbridge does here, but this domination is more psychological than actual. Throw in our more than 500 further education colleges to balance America's community colleges, which are firmly counted as higher education, and our alleged elitism is radically reduced.

Finally, almost everything that has happened in British higher education over the past 30 years — the establishment of the new universities, the enlargement of the older civics, the promotion of the colleges of advanced technology, the creation of the polytechnics — has lowered barriers to entry. And not unintentionally. Shortly before he died, I interviewed Lord Robbins, the architect of the famous 1963 report for ever

associated with university expansion.

I asked him why he, an old-fashioned liberal, had been so convinced expansion was necessary despite its disruptive potential, social and academic. He replied by recalling a remark of R H Tawney, who has spent the war years in Washington: "You should never underestimate how America has benefited because so many of its people have had at least the smell of a higher education." Many people agreed with Lord Robbins, even as they agonised about the dangers of offering students second-best — "more means worse", the war-cry of conservative opponents of expansion, turned upside down.

Britain's present lurch, therefore, towards mass higher education, to almost-open access, is not a sudden event. It is the culmination of a long revolution — but one with radical consequences. An inevitable consequence is that, if entry standards are lowered, wastage rates will rise — unless exit standards are lowered, too, which ministers half-publicly suspect is already happening. Yet, among the many performance indicators by which universities will be judged are wastage rates. If rates rise, universities will be

punished. The intention, of course, is to keep standards up; it will probably have the opposite effect.

Once universities could boast of low wastage rates because they could afford to take very few risks when admitting students — if in doubt, leave them out. In truth, of course, British wastage was always high. It happened not during higher education but at the point of entry, denying too many school-leavers even that Robbins-Tawney "smell of a higher education". This premature denial of opportunity goes a long way to explain Britain's shockingly low rate of staying on beyond the compulsory school-leaving age. Disincentives dangerously outweigh incentives for many teenagers.

If higher education is to be opened up for good, two things have to happen. First, we must learn to live with higher wastage. After all, it is evidence of a determination to maintain academic standards, which should please conservatives, and of a desire to offer more students at least the chance to succeed, which should please liberals.

Second, we have to redefine failure. The British too often define success in terms of exclusion. We like clubs because not everyone can join and long for O levels because most pupils never took them.

To provide the necessary psychological reassurance, exclusion has to be uncompromising — no (or very few) second chances. So when students drop out at the beginning of their last year, their lost degrees are remembered and their two years in higher education forgotten.

Why should students not drop in and out of universities, benefiting from credit transfer and accumulation arrangements if they want, or pick-and-mixing their own higher education? Either way they might turn out to be more engaged, more active learners, than well-drilled cohorts of straight-through students. The latter, of course, will continue to dominate higher education numerically, more than ever perhaps, but more room must be found for the former. The only way is to take more risks, which means not being so frightened of failure.

The author is professor of education at Leeds University and former editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Noble exploits of the round square

Twenty-five years ago, Gordonstoun inspired the name for a living memorial to the ideals of Kurt Hahn

Against the stunning red and gold backdrop of a Canadian autumn, a former king, an English peer and two German princes met with heads of schools from all over the world at the weekend to discuss the future of what must be one of the most extraordinary associations of schools.

The members would not be entirely surprised if few people had heard of them, and certainly their title takes some explaining. The Round Square Conference, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, was formed at Gordonstoun school a year after the 80th birthday of Kurt Hahn, founder of Salem and Gordonstoun Outward Bound and the United World Colleges.

The idea for a loose association of schools that embraced the Hahn ideal of educating the whole child in body as well as mind, and to accept the need to serve others, came from the then King Constantine of Greece, who slipped out of his country without telling his minister to attend the 1966 birthday meeting at Schloss Salem, Dr Hahn's first school in Germany. "The idea was greeted in silence, so I thought maybe it was not such a good idea after all," says the king, who was overthrown in a military coup in 1967, "but the others said they wanted time to think about it. Dr Hahn said that we could go ahead but that it should not be called the Hahn Association."

The group met again the following year at Gordonstoun — without King Constantine. "I had some problems at home," he says. The meeting was chaired by Jocelyn Winthrop Young, one of the two original pupils who came to Gordonstoun with Dr Hahn from Salem in 1933, the year before the then Prince Philip joined the school.

Looking out of the window at Gordonstoun, Mr Win-

throp Young, who had been King Constantine's headmaster at Anavryta School in Athens, suggested the group call itself the Round Square Conference after the school's splendid if eccentric building, which encircles a lawn.

The five underlying principles of Round Square are outdoor adventure, service, education for democracy, international understanding and environmental conservation. The RSC now has 27 member schools in nine countries on five continents. It arranges school exchanges and aid projects worldwide.

More than 200 delegates,

number of students each year for periods from a month to a term. The RSC also undertakes some ambitious foreign aid programmes. Girls from Cobham Hall School, in Kent, helped to rebuild a water system for classrooms and community centres in India after an appeal from two RSC schools there.

Most of the money — about £1,500 for each project — is raised by a fund organised by Prince Alexander of Schleswig-Holstein, a governor of Lonsdale, his old school in northern Germany. The prince encourages students to return to their schools to raise money for the projects.

A rule of the fund is that the money can only be used for the building materials required. Fares are raised by sponsors, the school and the students themselves, and accommodation is provided by the host school.

As it embarks on the next 25 years with schools in Denmark, Russia and South Africa waiting to join, the RSC has decided to make its existence known and aims to raise more funds so that it can expand. The members are anxious not to lose what they see as the special quality

of the annual conference, however. "We do not want to meet in conference centres or hotels but in schools during term time, not in the holidays when they are bare and echoing," says Ann West, the deputy head of Cobham Hall, in Kent, and deputy director of the RSC.

Another of the requirements of RSC membership is that schools involve their students in the running of schools. After last year's conference in Delhi, it was agreed that students would also play a major part in the organisation of conferences. More than half the delegates in Canada at the weekend were students.

DAVID TYTLER



Home: the main block at Gordonstoun

students, teachers, heads and governors attended this year's conference at Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, Quebec, representing schools in Australia, Canada, England, Germany, India, Kenya, Scotland, Switzerland and the US. Constantine is the active chairman, and has no doubts about the value of the RSC. "One can hardly wake up in the morning without seeing major changes have taken place in the world. By going to other countries our students can help to eliminate misunderstandings about how other people live, which will help them to avoid some of the mistakes previous generations have made."

Member schools exchange a

Meet the head

Education fair helps parents choose

BRITAIN's largest exhibition of independent schools will take place next weekend in London. Independent Education '92, organised by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in association with the Independent Schools Information Service, will enable parents to meet headteachers and benefit from advice offered in a programme of free seminars.

With more independent schools introducing vocationally based courses, parents will be able to see the whole range of opportunities. For example, Trinity School is introducing the BTEC national diploma course in business and finance and information technology into its 1993 curriculum. Colin Ashby, the headmaster, believes this is a step that other independent schools will follow.

Other issues to be discussed include boarding, single-sex or co-educational, planning for school fees, special needs schools and independent schools in London.

More than 250 independent schools will be represented at the fair, which is to be held at the Business Design Centre, in Islington, north London. The opening times are: Friday, 3pm-7pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 10am-4pm.

The nearest tube station is The Angel. The cost of admission is £5. A full information pack, including a timetable of seminars, an exhibitor list and details of how to get to the Business Design Centre, is available through an information

Public school celebrates the centenary of a great tradition

The man who made men out of Oundle

He was described by H.G. Wells as "beyond question the greatest man I have ever known". He is now acknowledged as one of the three great headmasters, with Arnold of Rugby and Thring of Uppingham, who shaped the English public school system.

Frederick William Sanderson took up his headship of Oundle School in September 1892, and to celebrate the centenary the school has designated Saturday "Sanderson Day". Many Old Oundelians, particularly those who remember the school in the Sanderson era (1892-1922), have been invited back for a full programme of events.

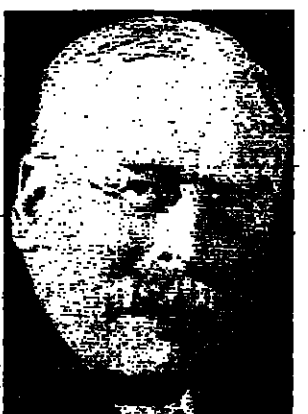
H.G. Wells was not alone in his admiration. William Walker, who wrote his *History of the Oundle Schools* in 1956, hoped his two chapters might "serve to restore the vivid colours of the original figure, and present a portrait of the greatest man this writer ever knew, Sanderson of Oundle".

What made Sanderson by far the greatest in a long line of headmasters going back to the school's foundation in 1485? Under his predecessors, the pupils had received a stereotyped classical education, but in 1892 the school's governing body, the Most Worshipful Company of Grocers, appointed him to transform Oundle.

In addition to classical tuition, he was to provide a modern side in languages, science and engineering. So began the present day tradition of releasing pupils from academic studies to pursue practical work in the school workshops, creating a whole generation of "craftsmen of

Links with commerce and industry are to be re-forged in 1992, with the appointment of an "industrial fellow" who will work with the head of design technology to develop project work in partnership with industrial companies. To fund that appointment and to commemorate this centenary, Oundle is setting up the Sanderson Trust.

In an obituary which appeared as the front-page lead in *The Times Educational*



Sanderson of Oundle

Supplement dated June 24, 1922, the second master described Sanderson as a super-engineer. "It was this grasp of the concrete that gave him such an insight into the mind of the average English boy, with whom the concrete, the actual thing, and not the abstract idea is the sparking point of interest." The duty he imposed on his staff was to find out what interested each boy, to make it "creative" and so to give every pupil a sense of mastery over something.

Sanderson was no "chalk and talk" man: classrooms, he

ening rooms. The real work was to be done in the laboratories, in the library or museum, art room or power station. This real work was also for the first time co-operative, rather than competitive.

Thirty years after Sanderson's arrival at Oundle, he gave a lecture to the National Union of Scientific Workers at University College, London. "The great purpose of teaching is to enlist the boys and girls in the service of man today and man tomorrow," he said. "We must send out workers imbued with the determination to seek and investigate truth — truth that will make them free — and to take great care never to take part in or sympathise with those methods by which the edge of truth is blunted."

These were his last words. Sanderson sat down, then slipped silently from his chair. The chairman, H.G. Wells, hurriedly closed the meeting.

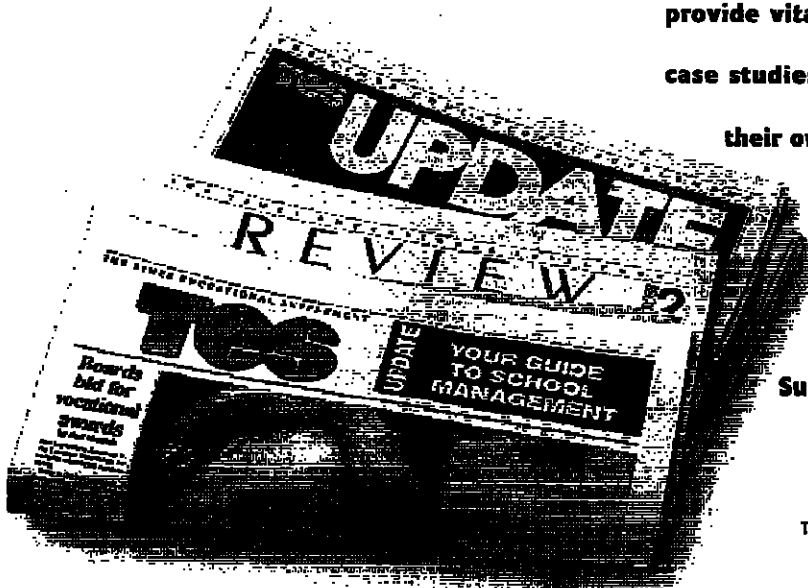
The casket with Sanderson's ashes was placed in a niche in the ambulatory behind the altar of the school's new memorial chapel, which was built to Sanderson's plans to honour all those old boys who died in the first world war, but completed only after his death. An engraved slate bears the inscription: "Frederick William Sanderson, Headmaster 1892-1922, to whom God Granted Grace to revive this ancient school which is itself his memorial. By his vision and enthusiasm he transformed the life of the school, promoted its vigorous growth and enhanced its reputation."

ROGER EAMES

• Roger Eames is communications

Why schools are opting out
Schools given alternative to opting out

IN, OUT, IN, OUT, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



Every school will now be facing a key decision: To be in or Out.

This Friday 9th October, The TES looks at the issues in our School Management Update magazine.

We assess how either option will affect your school, what the impact will be on teachers and governors and what is involved in running a grant maintained school without local council back-up.

So, whether you are opting out or staying with the local authority, it will provide vital information, analysis and case studies of schools that are under their own management.

Whichever you decide to do, make sure that you read The Times Educational Supplement first.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
Buy it every Friday.

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (73293) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (73427211)
 9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series (r) (1215853) 9.30 The Magic of a Dartmoor Stream. Richard Phillips films the wildlife of the River Lyd, close by his home on Dartmoor (r) (732327)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (7642899) 10.05 Playdays (s) (2353560) 10.25 Jimbo and the Jet Set (r) (4493376) 10.35 Hudson and Halls. The cooks meet Lorraine Chase (r) (8886872)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (9057671) 11.05 High Chaparral. Vintage western series (6655624) 11.50 National Trust Gardens. Peter Seabrook visits the large walled garden of Felbrigge Hall near Cromer in Norfolk (r) (8436573)
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (4680563) 12.05 The Last Great Adventure. This year's Tall Ships race (r) (2175259) 12.35 Regional News and weather (5302694)
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (36898)
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (8023327) 1.50 Going For Gold. General knowledge quiz. With the classic Henry Kelly (s) (50237143)
 2.15 Paradise. Western drama series (7811853) 3.00 Pot Black. Timeframe. The first two quarter-finals of the pot-against-the-clock snooker competition (s) (364124)
 3.40 Cartoons (2009785) 3.50 Penny Crayon (r) (2005969) 4.00 Tea With Grandma. Puppet series (s) (7945124) 4.10 Favourite Songs. With the voices of Lauren Bacall and Bryan Adams (s) (1474940) 4.35 Peter Pan and the Pirates. Cartoon adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (7753853)
 5.00 Newsround (8784105) 5.05 Blue Peter. Anthea Turner meets Sossian Rafailoff (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4800921)
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (160143) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sessions and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (178)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (698). Northern Ireland. Neighbours
 7.00 Watchdog. Consumer affairs series. (Ceefax) (582)
 8.00 On the Up. Luckiest comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire. (Ceefax) (s) (4211)
 8.30 The Velvet Claw. Jack of All Trades. The series tracing the evolution of carnivores focuses on creatures who have turned full circle and are now vegetarian again. (Ceefax) (s) (5178). Wales: Out of a Valley
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8872)
 9.30 Panorama. On the eve of the Conservative party conference, investigation and analysis of important events at home and abroad (633834)



Small screen entertainment: critic Barry Norman (10.10pm)

- 10.10 Film 92 With Barry Norman.
 CHOICE: The BBC cinema programme celebrates 21 years, most of them in the company of Barry Norman. It is often pointed out that more people watch the show, up to three times as many, as actually go to the cinema. There may be two reasons for this. One is that most films are either rubbish or at best routine and having heard Norman's dismissals there is no need to see them. The other is that the programme is an entertainment in itself. Norman is a fluent and witty performer, who may be right or wrong but always has a firm opinion and puts it over clearly. The weakness of the show is that Norman is far more respectful of the stars he interviews than the films they appear in. Michelle Pfeiffer may be beautiful and alluring but even she must have been embarrassed by the number of times Norman told her so (s) (552073). Northern Ireland: In Performance; Wales: Between Ourselves
 10.40 Cagney and Lacey. New York police series starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (r). (Ceefax) (s) (797766) Northern Ireland: 10.45 Film 92 11.15 Cagney and Lacey
 11.30 Caring Ahead. Magazine series exploring aspects of the world of job training (r) (87334). Wales: 11.25 Film 92 11.55 to 12.25am Caring Ahead 12.00 Weather (6087341). Northern Ireland: (to 12.00am) Caring Ahead

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News (4593969)
 8.15 Northern Lights. A profile of Rob Worby, an electronic music specialist (r) (7534563) 8.20 A Summer Journey: the Severn. Angela Ripston travels from the river's source at Plynlimon to Gloucester (9955360) 8.50 A Week to Remember (b/w). Pathe News footage from this week 40 years ago (5795105)
 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
 9.05 News and weather (5126730) followed by Storytime (s) (3236932) 2.15 See Heart Magazine series for the hearing impaired (r) (383056) 2.45 In the Garden. Dennis Cornish plants bulbs for spring (4811394)
 3.00 News and weather (8603921) 3.05 Songs of Praise from Turo Cathedral (r). (Ceefax) (s) (3643037) 3.45 A Week to Remember. Shown at 8.50am (2082018) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (262611)
 4.00 Film: Silver Heat (1945, b/w) starring Ralph Richardson and George Withers. Muted second world war propaganda drama about a Dutch shipbuilder who is shunned by his community for working on a prototype U-boats but becomes a hero when he sabotages the craft. Directed by Vernon Sewell and Gordon Wellesley (39360)
 5.30 Plunder. Pamela Stephenson dips into the BBC's archives to select her favourite television clips. Presented by Emma Freud (r) (747)
 6.00 The Addams Family (b/w). Comedy series based on characters in a long-running New Yorker magazine cartoon. (Ceefax) (997650)
 6.25 DEF II begins with The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. American comedy series (346209) 6.50 Standing Room Only. Football magazine presented by Kevin Allen (428056) 7.25 Liquid Television. Animation series (821563)



Rallying cry: the Cameroon politician John Fru Ndi (7.50pm)

- 7.50 Out of Darkness: Angel of Democracy? Informative series about the efforts being made to reshape African societies. This week's programme focuses on Cameroon, a country rich in natural resources but economically bankrupt. After ten years of dictatorial rule, president Paul Biya has promised to introduce multi-party elections. (Ceefax) (s) (943766)
 8.30 Film: Passport to Terror (1989) starring Lee Remick, Roy Thinnes and Norma Aleand. An effective TV movie based on the true story of an American woman tourist who was arrested, tortured, and smuggled into the United States and thrown into prison. Directed by Lou Antonio. (Ceefax) (27308)
 10.00 Murder Most Horrid: Mrs Hat and Mrs Red. More killing comedy starring David French (r) (s) (49501)
 10.30 Newsnight with James Cox. A discussion on the Tory party's attitude to Europe. Among those taking part are the pro-European Edwina Currie and an anti-Maastricht treaty MP, Michael Spicer (690414)
 11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (884501)
 11.55 London Underground. The first of a new stand-up comedy and music series presented by Denis Leary. The guests are Ellen Cleghorne, Frank Skinner, Stephanie Hodge and Sinead O'Connor (983921)
 12.35am Weather (7426631)

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ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (6209018)
 9.25 Wn, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show presented by Danny Baker. This week's guests are Faith Brown, Nula Connolly, Gordon MacArthur and Andrew Paul (1211037) 9.55 Thames News (828237)
 10.00 The Place... The Place... Topical discussion series (8877853)
 10.40 This Morning. Magazine presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes New World recipes, emotional advice and an item on flowers. Plus national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 (s) (followed by national weather (4791056))
 12.10 Rosie and Jim. Children's puppet series (r) (7365360)
 12.30 Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (6063327) 1.05 Thames News (31901760)
 1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (389220) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (388501)
 2.15 Thames Help. Advice and information on social security benefits (r) (370582) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (6827292)
 3.10 ITN News headlines (8626327) 3.15 Thames News headlines (8626327) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in an Australian city hospital (4218563)
 3.50 Wovvies. Animated adventures (r) (2090037) 4.00 The Sooty Show. With Matthew Corbett (s) (9472817) 4.25 Beethoven. Animation (r) (Ceefax) (1464563) 4.50 How Z. Facts and fun show presented by Fred Dinenage, Carol Vorderman and Gareth Jones (4441389)
 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers (4894360)
 5.40 Early Evening News. (Oracle) Weather (324414)
 5.55 Thames Help (r) (647143)
 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (414)
 6.30 Thames News (766)
 7.00 Krypton Factor. Four more contestants take part in tough tests designed to assess their physical and mental ability. (Oracle) (s) (3719)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (650)



Multiple-choice questions: Michael Barrymore (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Strike It Lucky. Quiz game show hosted by Michael Barrymore. (Oracle) (s) (6679)
 8.30 World In Action. An investigation into how guidelines for police drivers chasing suspects are being flouted and how some of the officers who were responsible for crashes or deaths have escaped prosecution (6414)
 9.00 Solitaire. Watchable drama series following the lives and loves of men and women of the King's Fusiliers, now based in Hong Kong. (Oracle) (s) (2563)
 10.00 News at Ten. (Oracle) Weather (43327) 10.30 Thames News (244834)
 10.40 Film: The Haunting Passion (1983) starring Jane Seymour and Gerald McRaney. Well-made TV movie about a woman who moves into an old house with her husband only to find herself being pursued by the ghost of the former occupant's lover. Directed by John Kory (10218018)
 12.30am Entertainment UK. Leisure time guide (s) (47728)
 1.30 Sport AM. Natal and Transvaal meet in the final of South Africa's Currie Cup rugby competition; and there are highlights from the British karate open (88506)
 2.30 Film: Loving in the Rain (1973) starring Romy Schneider. Low-key romantic drama about a woman on holiday with her 15-year-old daughter who is facing death for a young man. Directed by Jean-Claude Brialy (87877)
 4.30 Music Special. Jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli in concert in New Orleans (31186)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (88341). Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons (44292)
 7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (19921)
 9.00 You Bet Your Life. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (20476)
 9.30 Schools (238230)
 12.00 Right to Reply. Presenter Darius Howie and series producer Trevor Phillips defend their Devil's Advocate programmes (r) (33940)
 12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series (89872)
 1.30 Kaboodle. Children's entertainment combining live action with animation (r) (68124)
 2.00 Film: My Six Convicts (1952, b/w) starring John Beal. Superior prison drama about a newly-appointed psychologist who has to overcome the suspicion of the inmates and the authorities. Directed in semi-documentary style by Hugo Fregonese (780360)
 3.55 Bach. Animation from Hungary (s) (2423212)
 4.00 The Garden Club. A visit to private gardens and allotments in the Ifracombe area (r). (Teletext) (679)
 4.30 Fifteen To One. Fast-moving knock-out general knowledge competition (s) (563)
 5.00 Late Late Show. Dublin's music and topical chat show, presented by Gay Byrne (s) (5312)
 6.00 Streetside. Drama serial about a group of London-based cycle couriers (r). (Teletext) (576)
 6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy series about growing up in the 1960s (r) (308)
 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (4921)
 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (7921)



Cut above the rest: the genial barbershop sitcom (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Desmond's. The denizens of Peckham's West Indian barbershop are back for their fourth series and an unusually long run of 13 episodes. Such confidence is unlikely to be misplaced. British sitcoms have been a disappointing area for Channel 4 but Desmond's is a welcome exception. It is a genial show, bold in having an all-black cast but never trying to make race an issue. Ethnic background apart, Desmond's is a conventional family comedy. Both of tonight's storylines could have come from any white sitcom. In one, Shirley (Carmen Monaghan) takes a bunch of cheeky kids on a Sunday school outing. In the other, the undereducated Desmond (Norman Beaton) and son Sean (Justin Pickett) are left at home to cope with the Sunday lunch. That is still a shade predictable fails to spoil the enjoyment (s) (6056)
 9.00 Animal Squad Undercover.
 CHOICE: In the first of three documentaries on the special operations unit of the RSPCA, the cameras follow two investigations into codefishing in East Anglia. The starting point is a video, supplied anonymously by an informant, which shows cods tearing each other to pieces in a back garden as various shadowy figures urge them on. There follow surveillance operations in quiet country lanes, culminating in dawn raids on the two suspects. Neither is happy to be disturbed and the language gets colourful. It gets even more fruity when one of the men phones an RSPCA investigator and gives him a loud and incoherent ear. At least the undated explosives on the video are a key to the story, though there is a nice sting in the tail. (Teletext) (2655)
 10.00 A Bit of a Do. David Nobbs's comedy series about the complicated romantic arrangements of two sets of in-laws. Starring David Jason, Nicola Pagett, Gwen Taylor and Paul Chapman (r). (Teletext) (3292)
 11.00 Beyond Belief. Sir Denis Forman chairs the last in the series that puts religion on trial. Believer Dr Sheila Cassidy and humanist Harold Blackman look at the evidence that religion brings comfort to those facing death or those who have lost loved ones (39735)
 12.00 Film: Cabeza de Vaca (1990). A season of Latin America cinema is launched with this stirring Mexican drama about a 16th-century conquistador who is captured by natives in what is now Florida. Starring Juan Diego and directed by Nicolas Echevarria (42612). Ends at 2.00am

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
 Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites
 6.00am The Dr. I. H. Show (9151872) 6.40 Mrs. Peppercorn (4829999) 8.50 Playdays (2506476) 9.10 Cartoons (2419476) 9.30 The Pyramid Game (129991) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (42230) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (66623) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (65124) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 1.00m Street (699440) 1.30m Geraldo (27143) 2.00m Another World (382327) 2.30m The Bold and the Beautiful (66623) 2.50m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 3.15m The Bold and the Beautiful (66623) 3.45m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 4.00m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 4.30m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 4.55m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 5.00m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 5.30m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 5.55m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 6.00m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 6.30m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 6.55m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 7.00m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 7.30m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 7.55m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 8.00m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 8.30m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 8.55m Star Trek: Voyager (55232) 9.00m Star 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